

STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA

ART: KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

SPICE & WOLY

VOL. 9

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

Lawrence

A clever young merchant. Traveling in search of Holo's homeland of Yoitsu.



Holo

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.



Col

A boy saved by Lawrence at the river checkpoint. A naive but clever lad.



Eve

A mysterious merchant woman. Normally hides her face and dresses like a man.

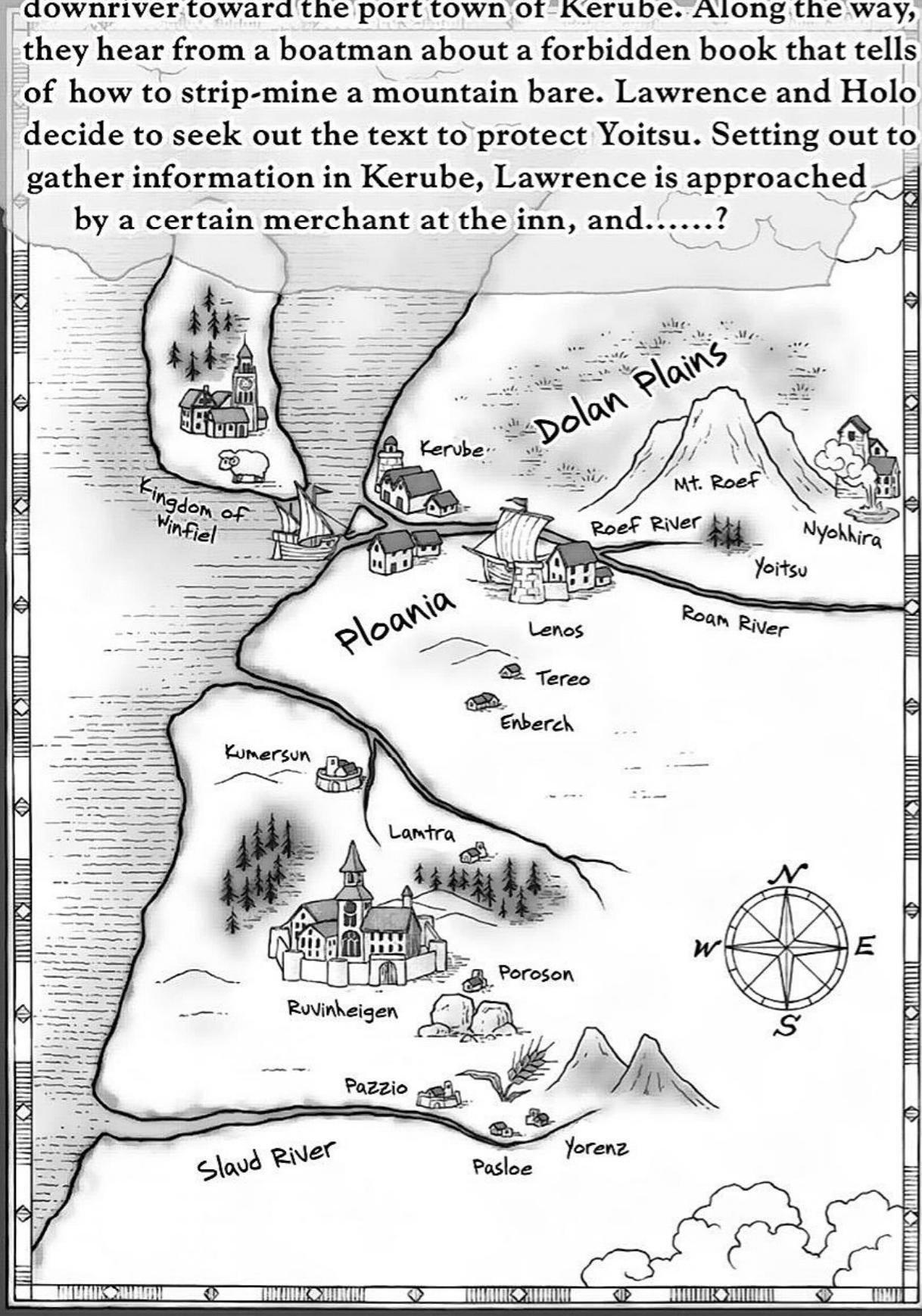


Kieman

The Kerube branch chief of the trade guild that counts Lawrence as one of its members. A cool-headed, canny businessman.

Introduction

In search of the forest of Yoitsu, Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo continue their travels. Avoiding an unstable situation in the town of Lenos, they proceed downriver toward the port town of Kerube. Along the way, they hear from a boatman about a forbidden book that tells of how to strip-mine a mountain bare. Lawrence and Holo decide to seek out the text to protect Yoitsu. Setting out to gather information in Kerube, Lawrence is approached by a certain merchant at the inn, and.....?

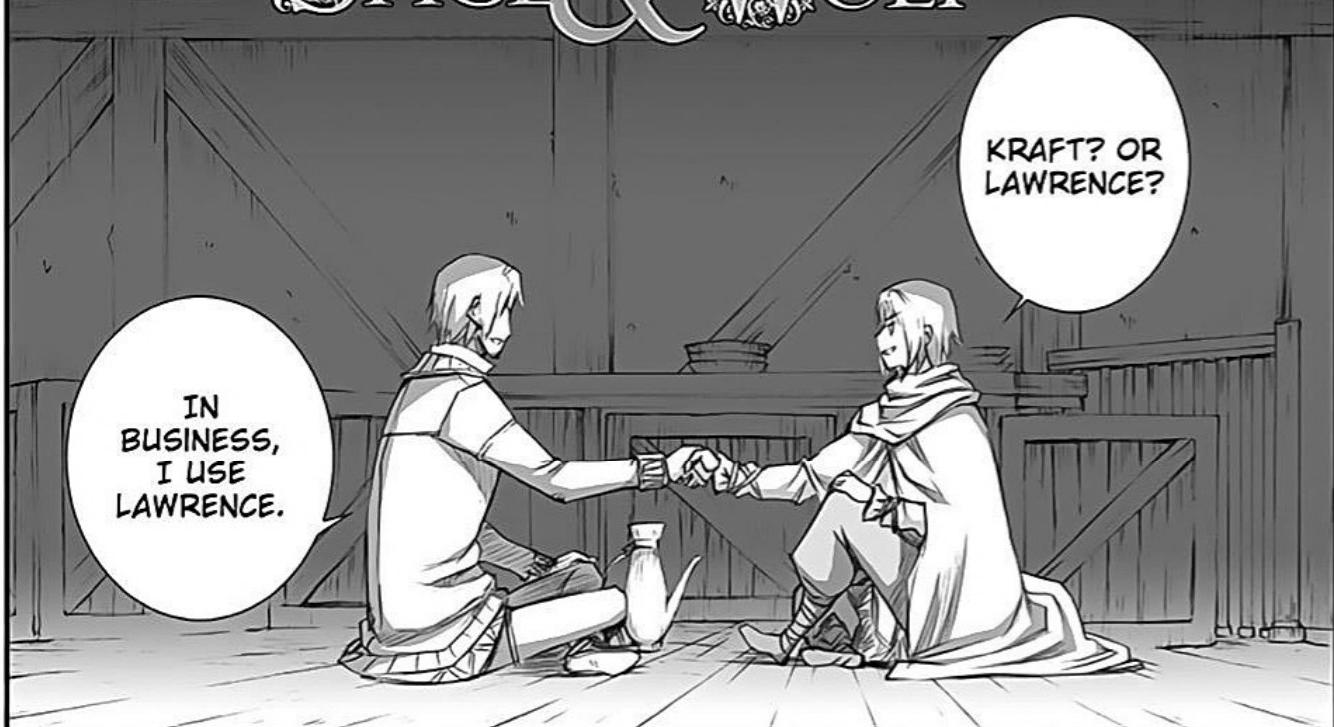


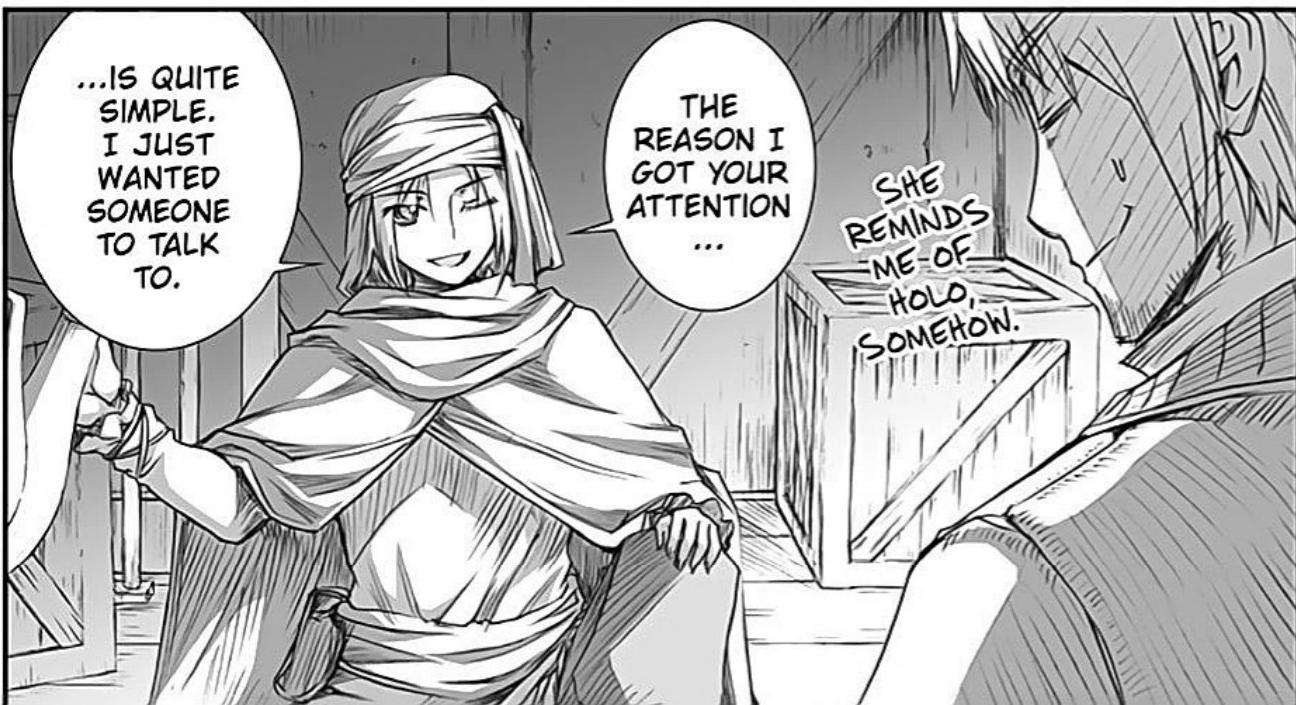
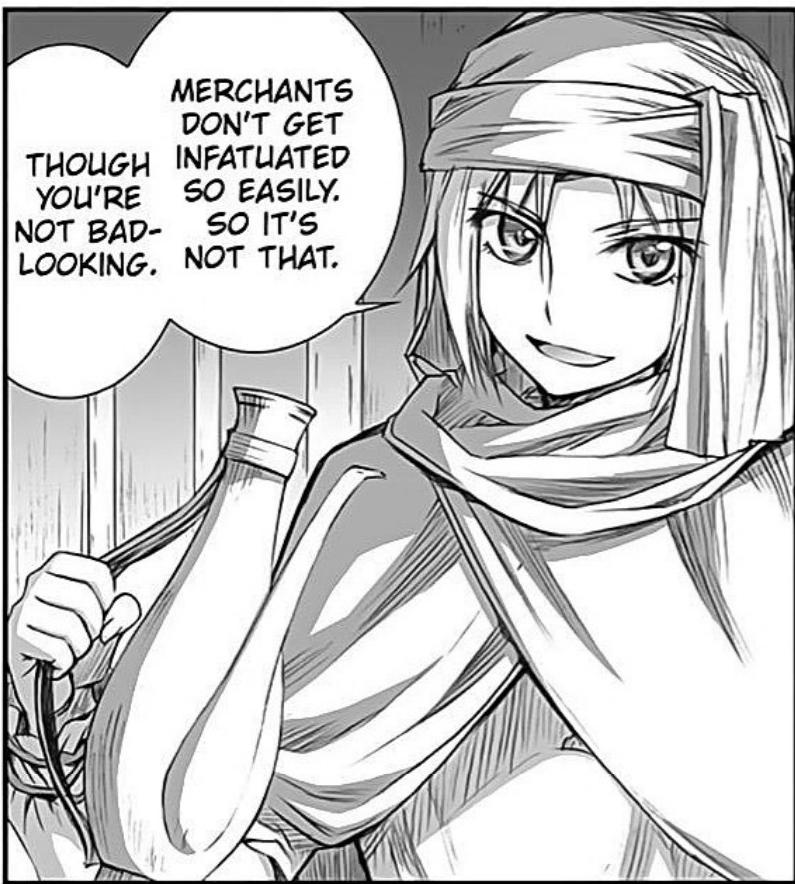
SPICE & WOLF

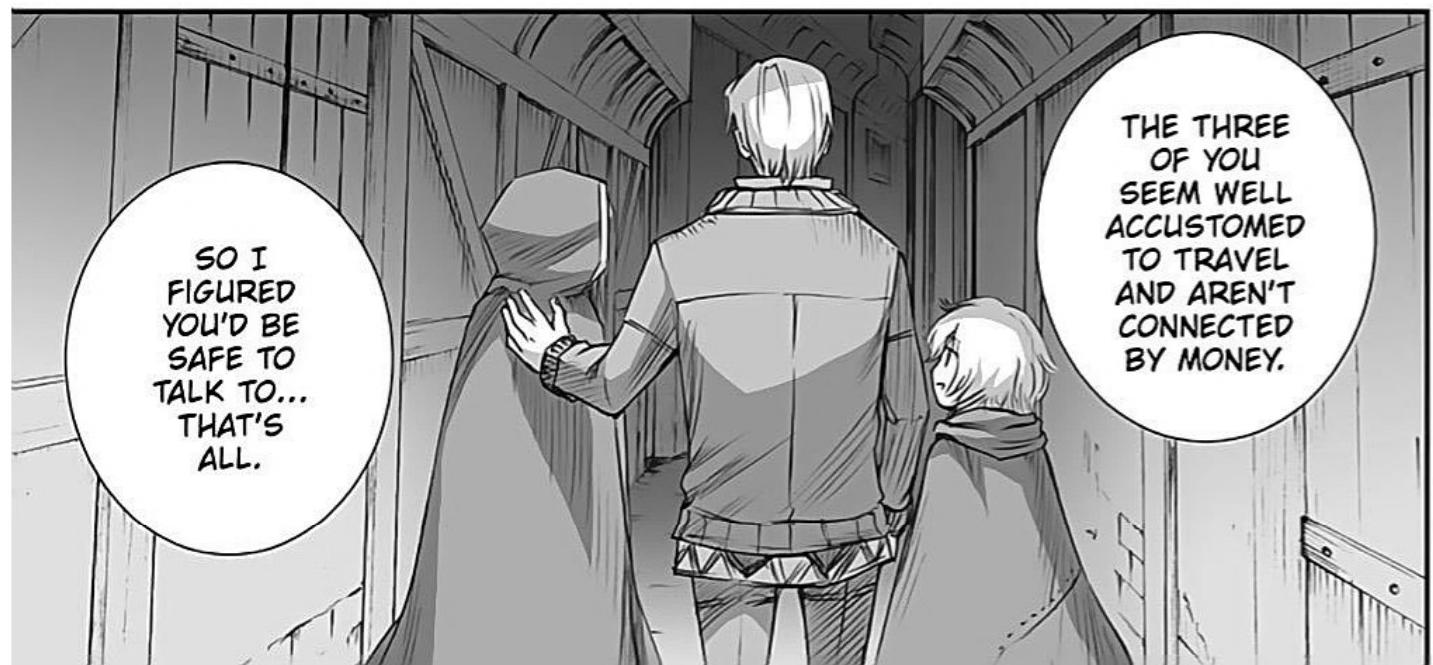
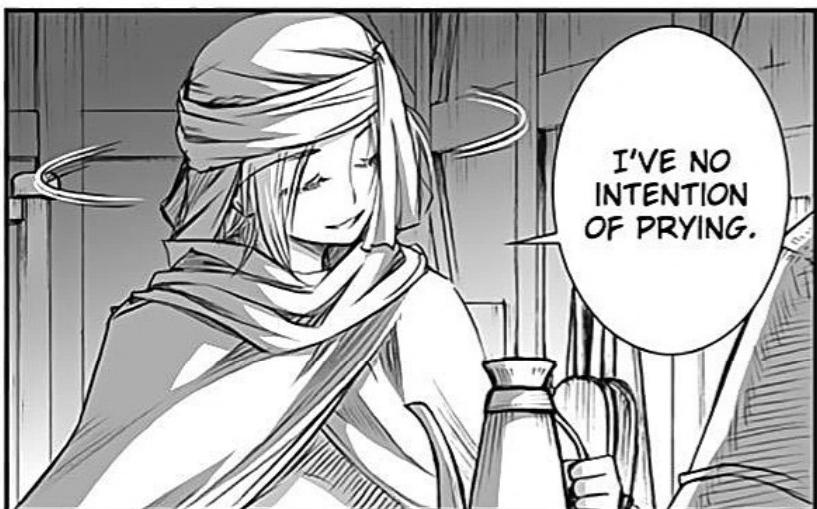
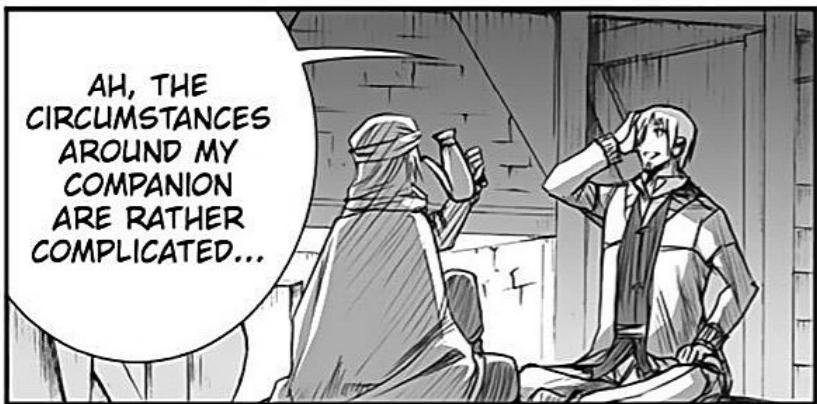
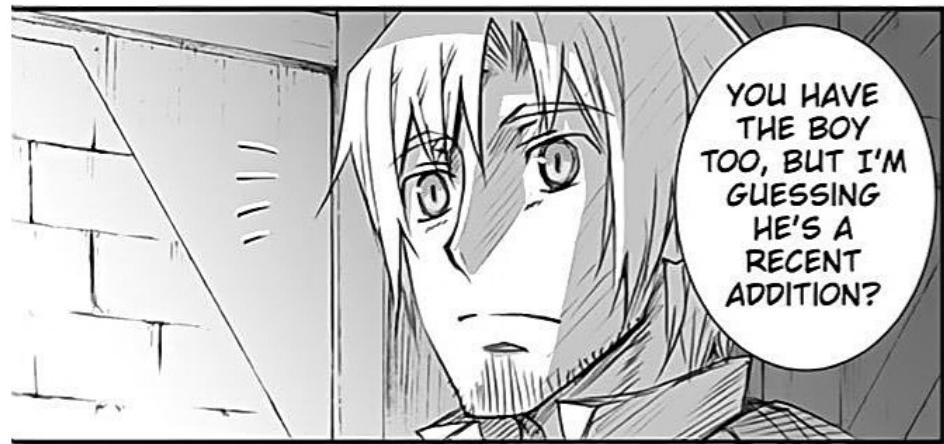
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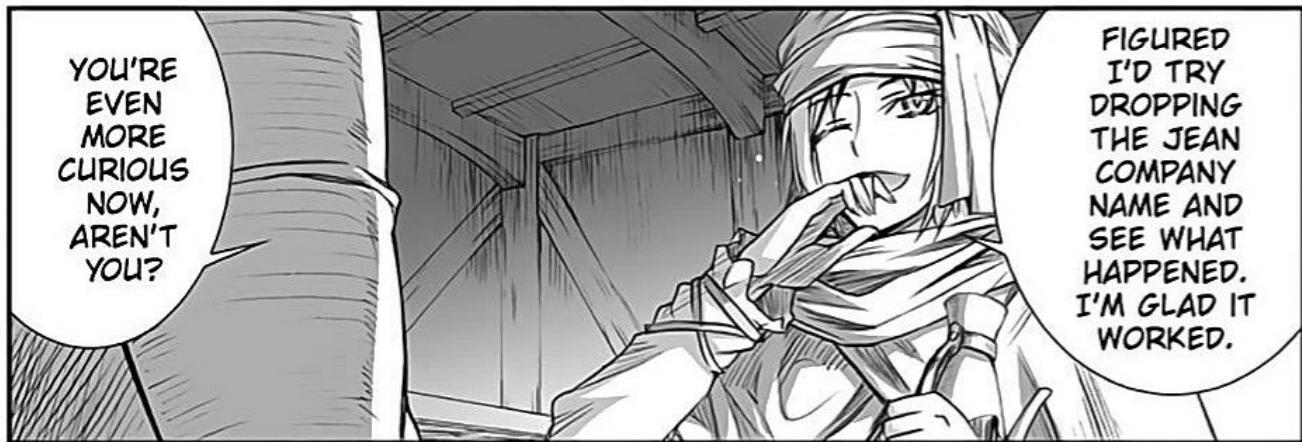
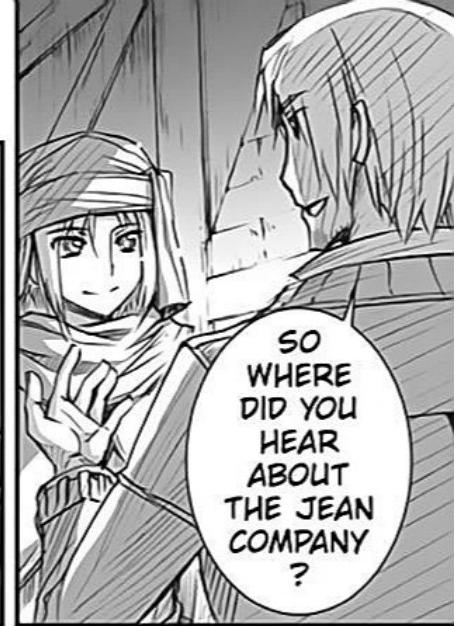
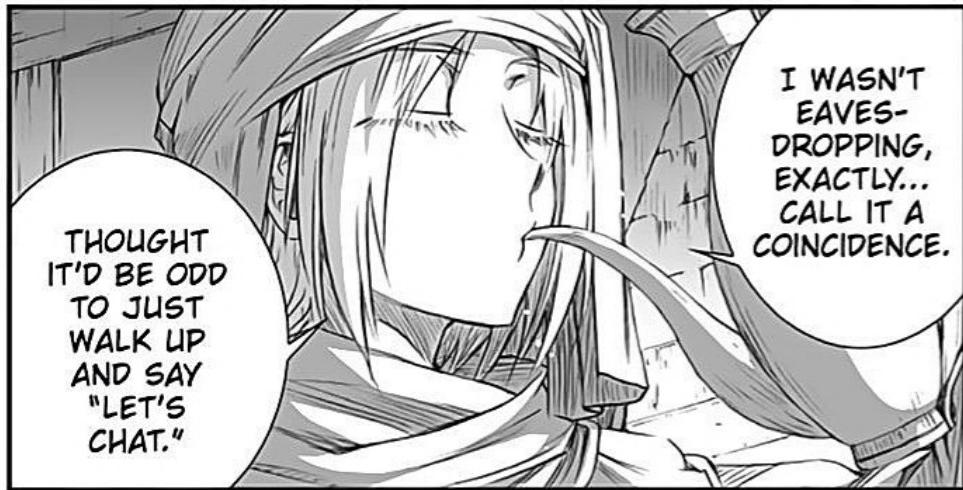
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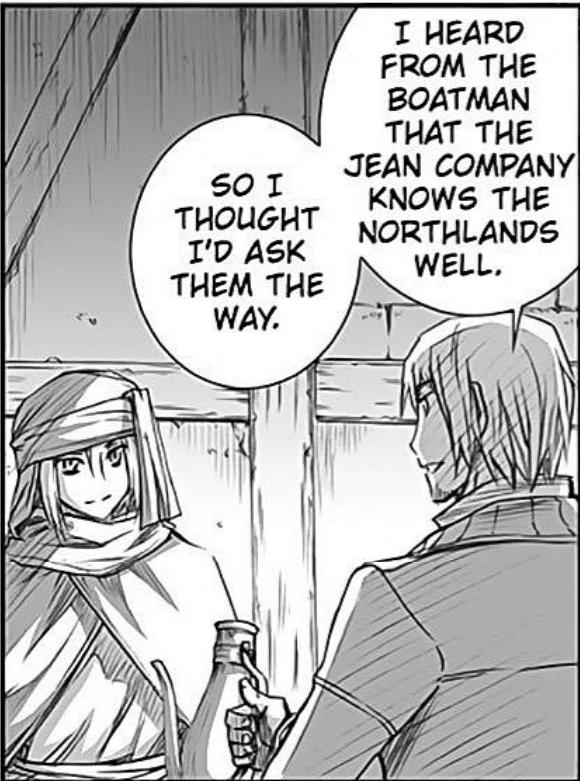
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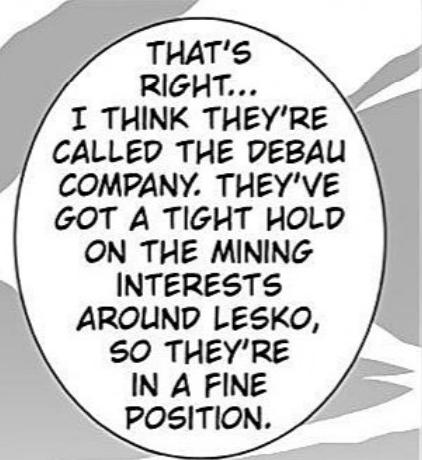
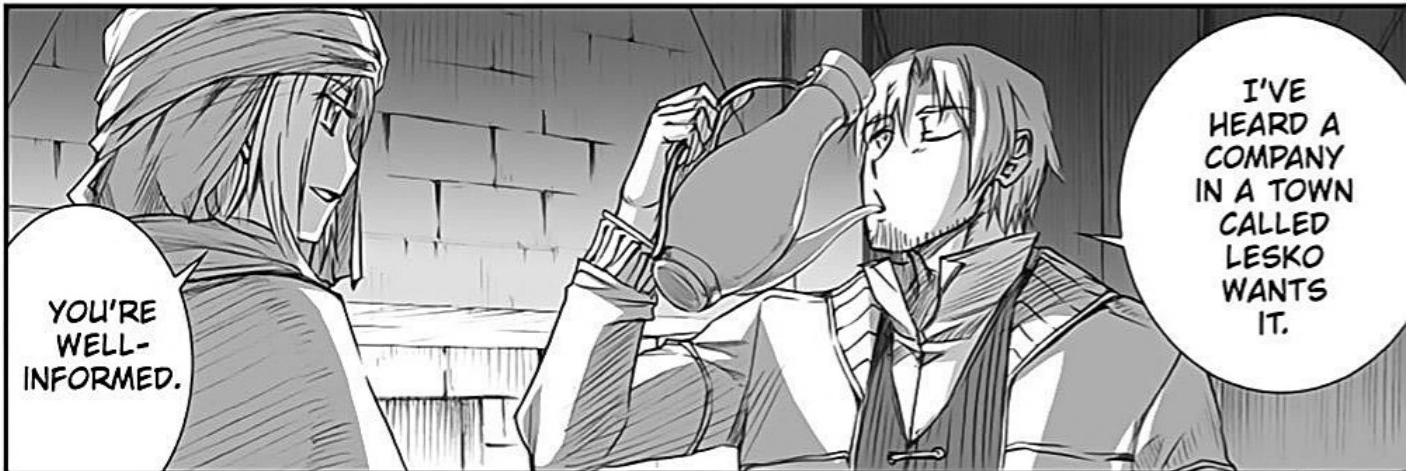














I DEAL WITH THE JEAN COMPANY FROM TIME TO TIME.



I WAS THINKING I'D USE THAT ANGLE.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A BOOK WITH A HUGE REWARD ON IT, THOUGH.



AREN'T YOU A FUNNY FELLOW?



IT'S SO SUSPICIOUS THAT IT'S STRANGELY BELIEVABLE.

A TRAVELING MERCHANT CALLING ON A COMPANY ABOUT THE BOOK WITH A WOMAN AND CHILD IN TOW.

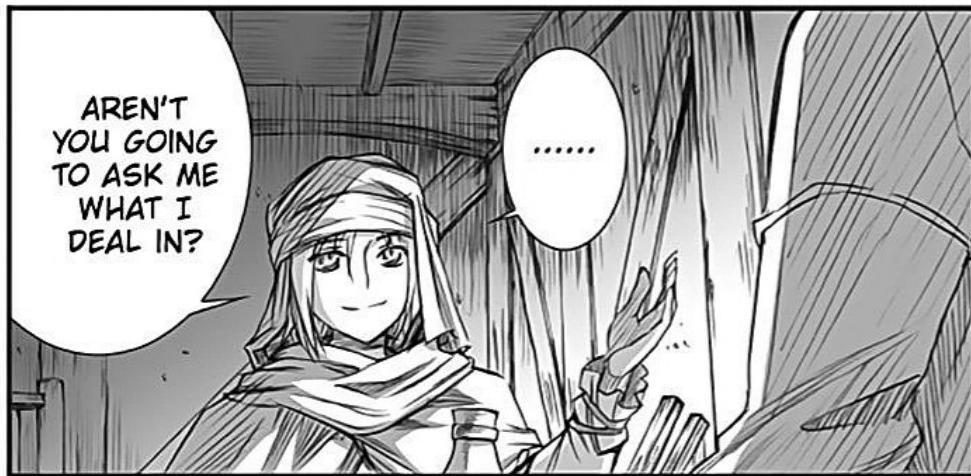


I'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION.

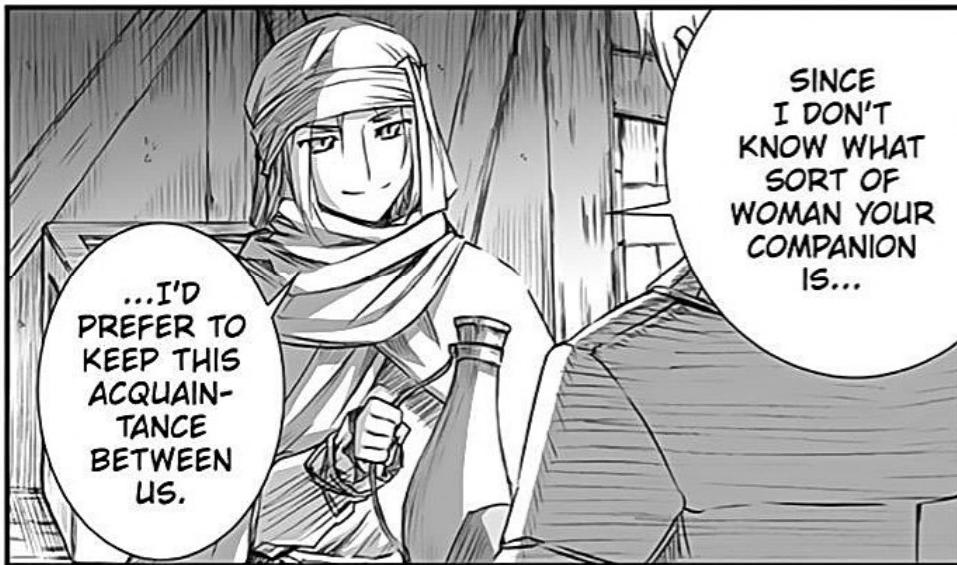
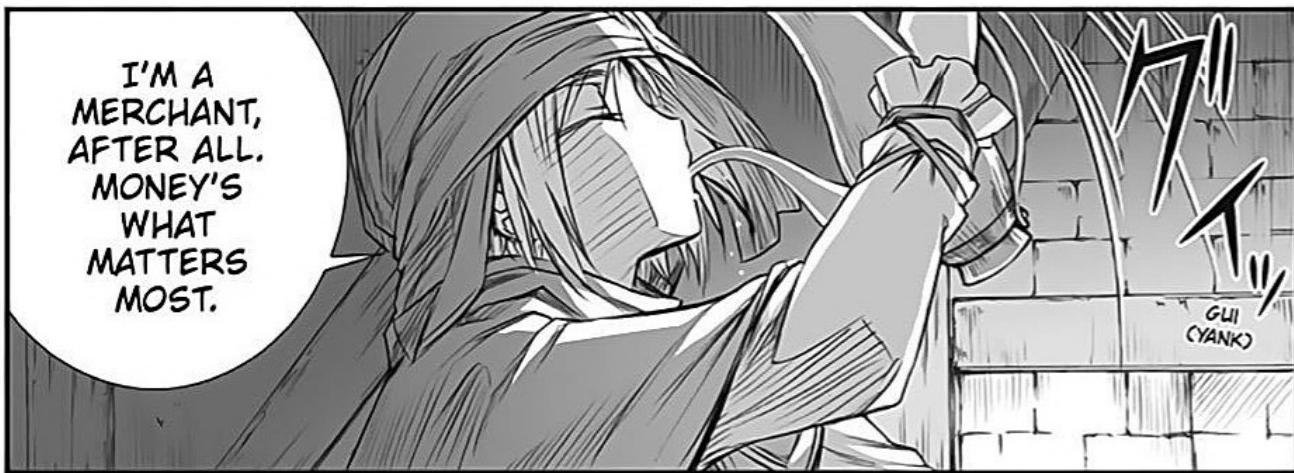


I CAN SEE WHY OLD MAN AROLD LIKES YOU!

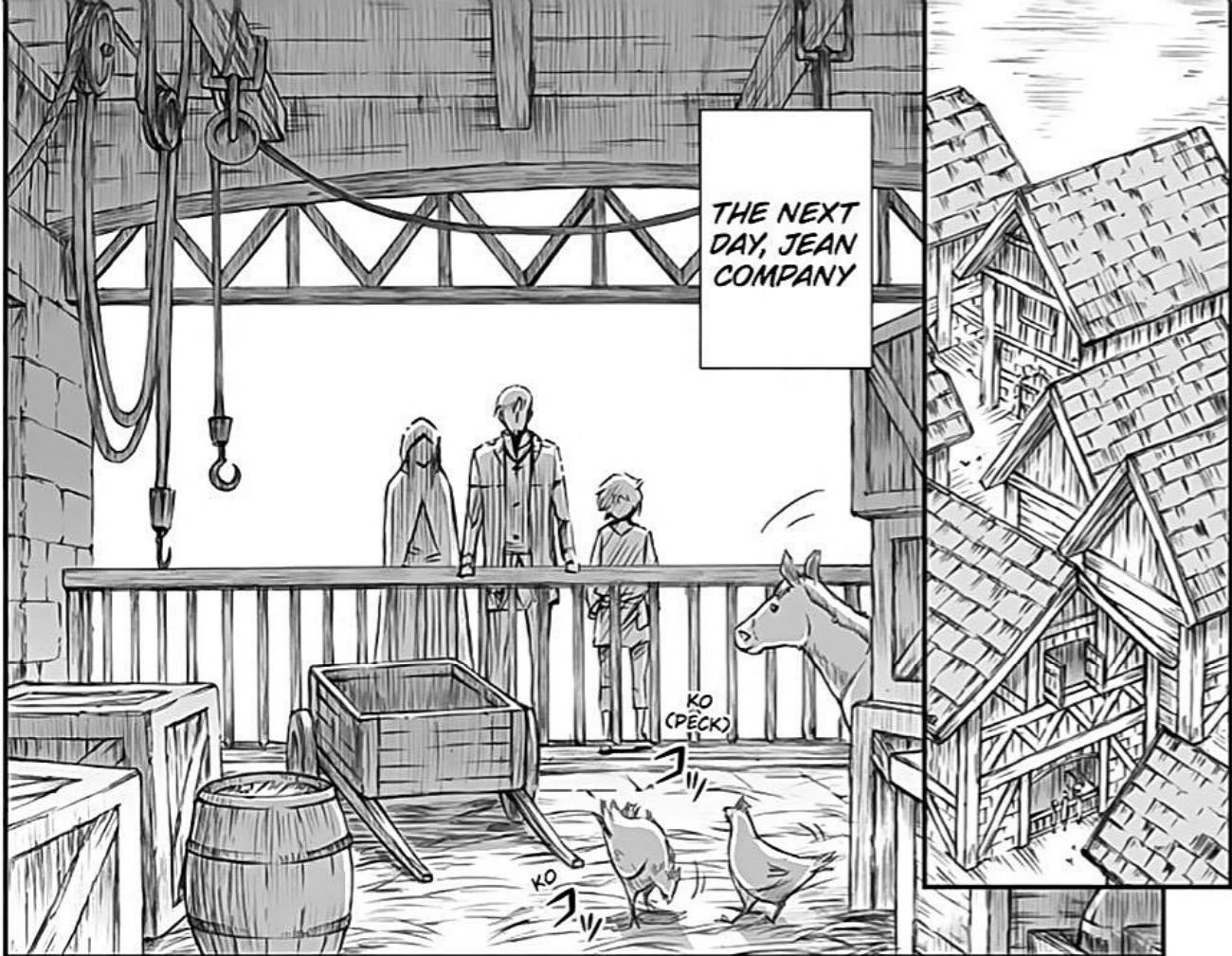
HA HA HA!

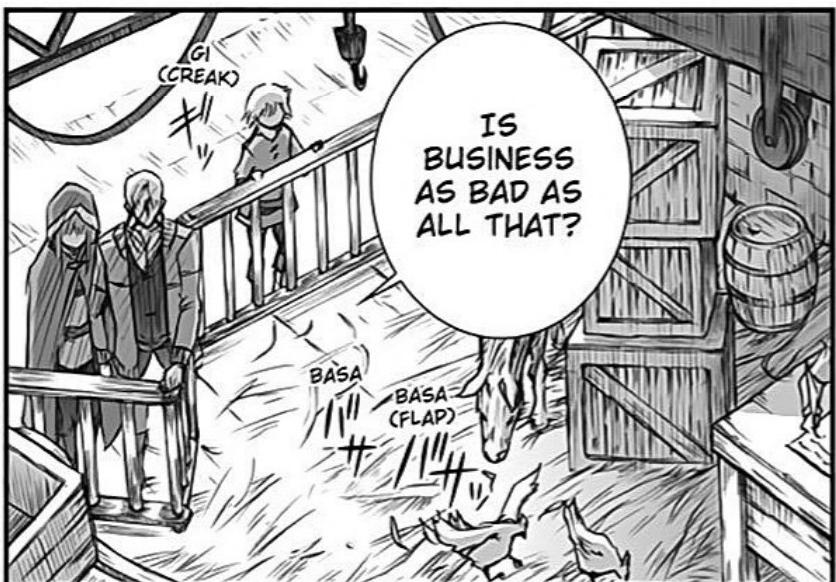


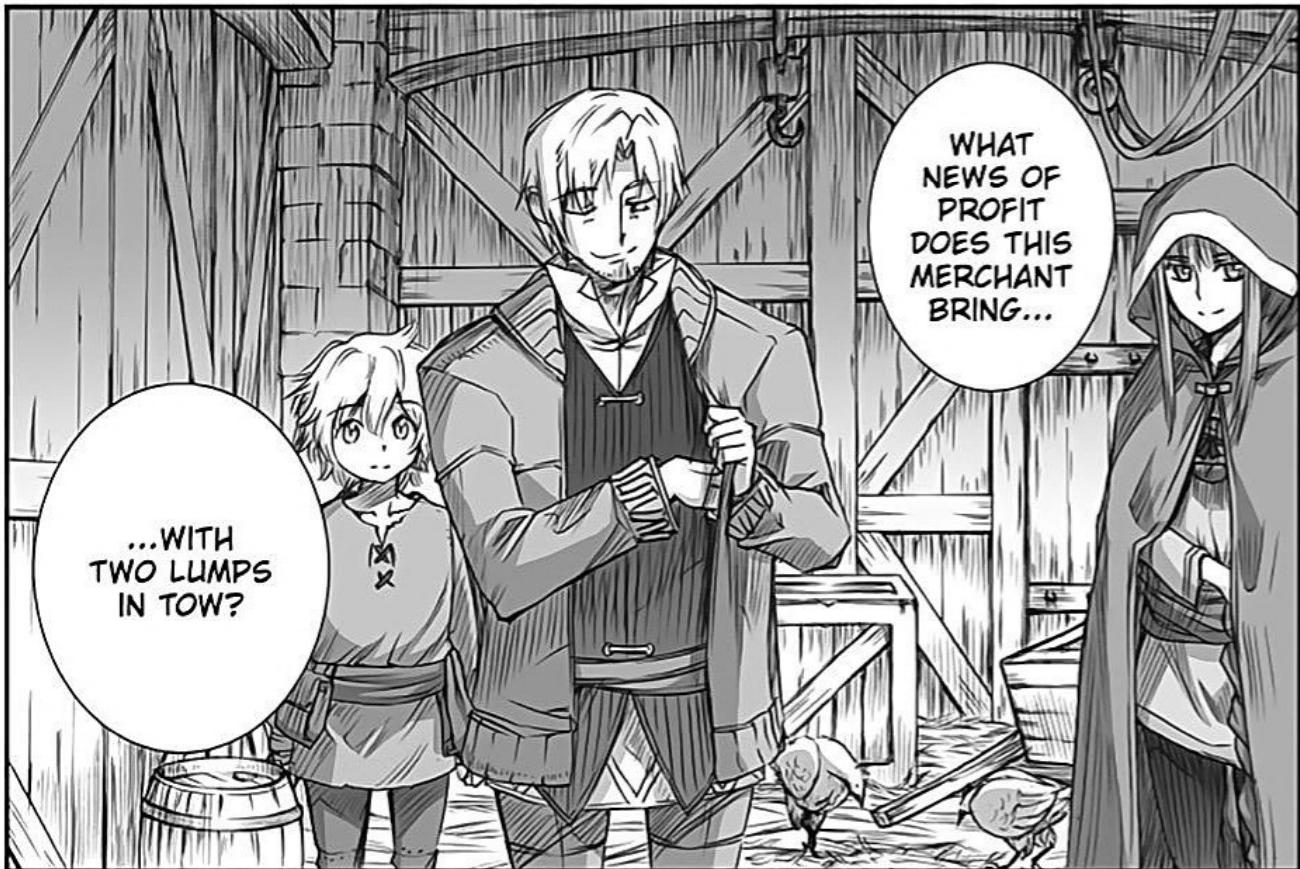
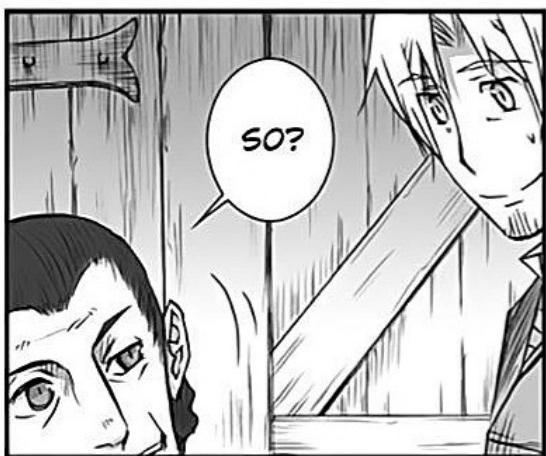


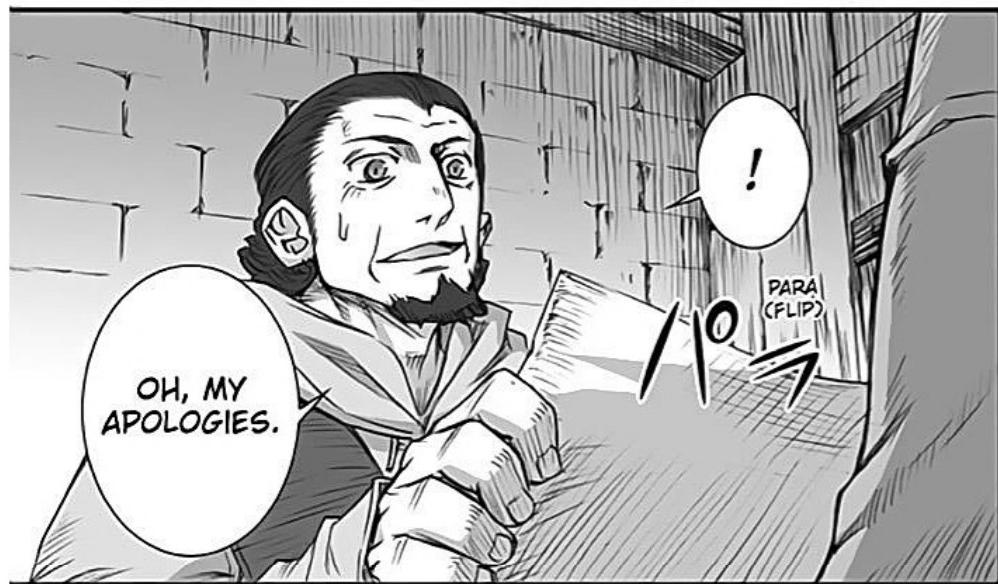


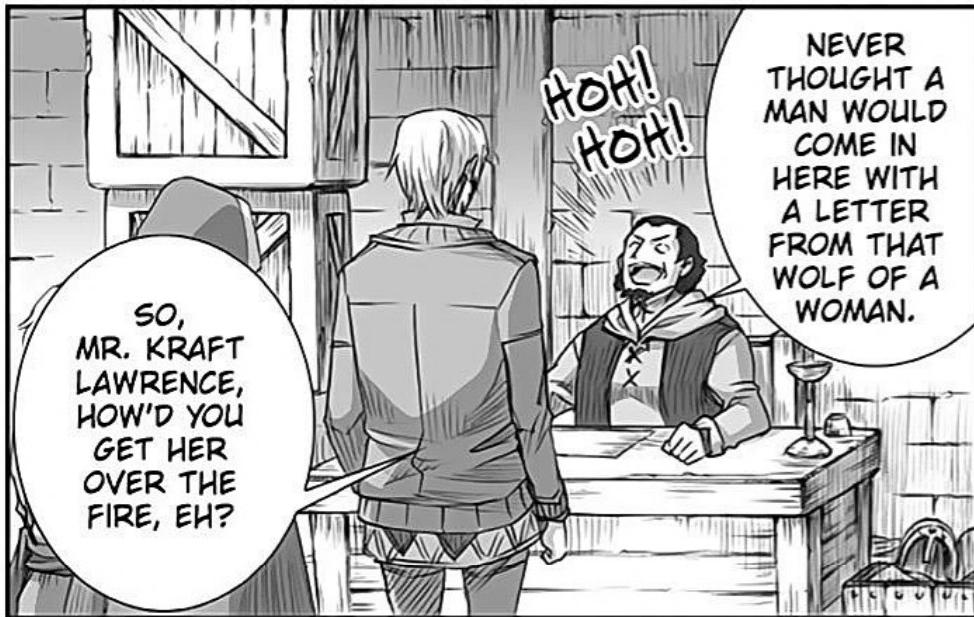
















VERY WELL...
WAIT A MOMENT,
WOULD YOU?



...AFTER HEARING THE RUMOR THAT A CUSTOMER OF MINE HAD PUT A TRULY REMARKABLE PRICE ON A CERTAIN BOOK.

THIS... IS THE RESULT OF THE EFFORT OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SO HELPFULLY COOPERATED...

AHEM!

...AND SO MANY OF THEM.

LETTERS ...



I WON'T LIE TO ANYONE BEARING A LETTER FROM THE SHE-WOLF OF THE BOLAN HOUSE.

NNEH-HEH!

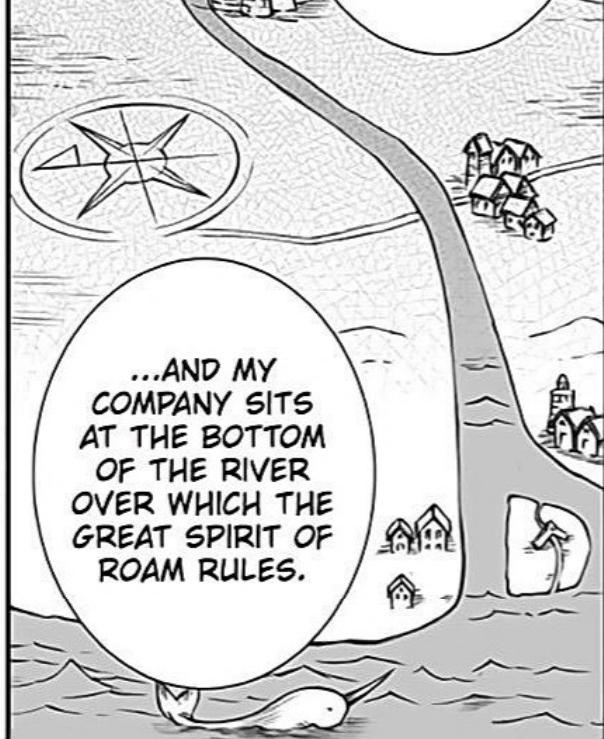
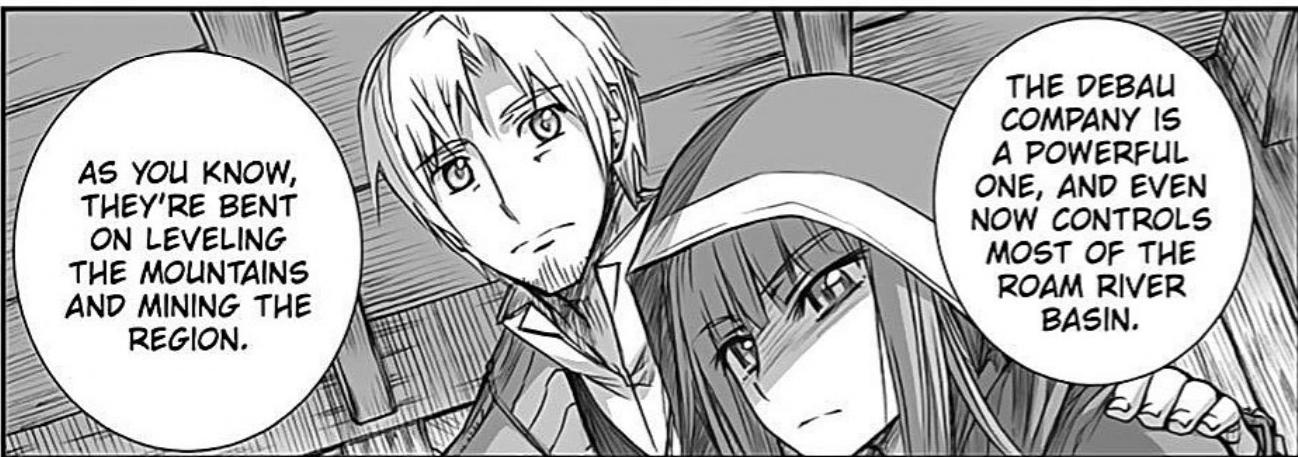
AND BY CUSTOMER, YOU MEAN THE DEBAU COMPANY?

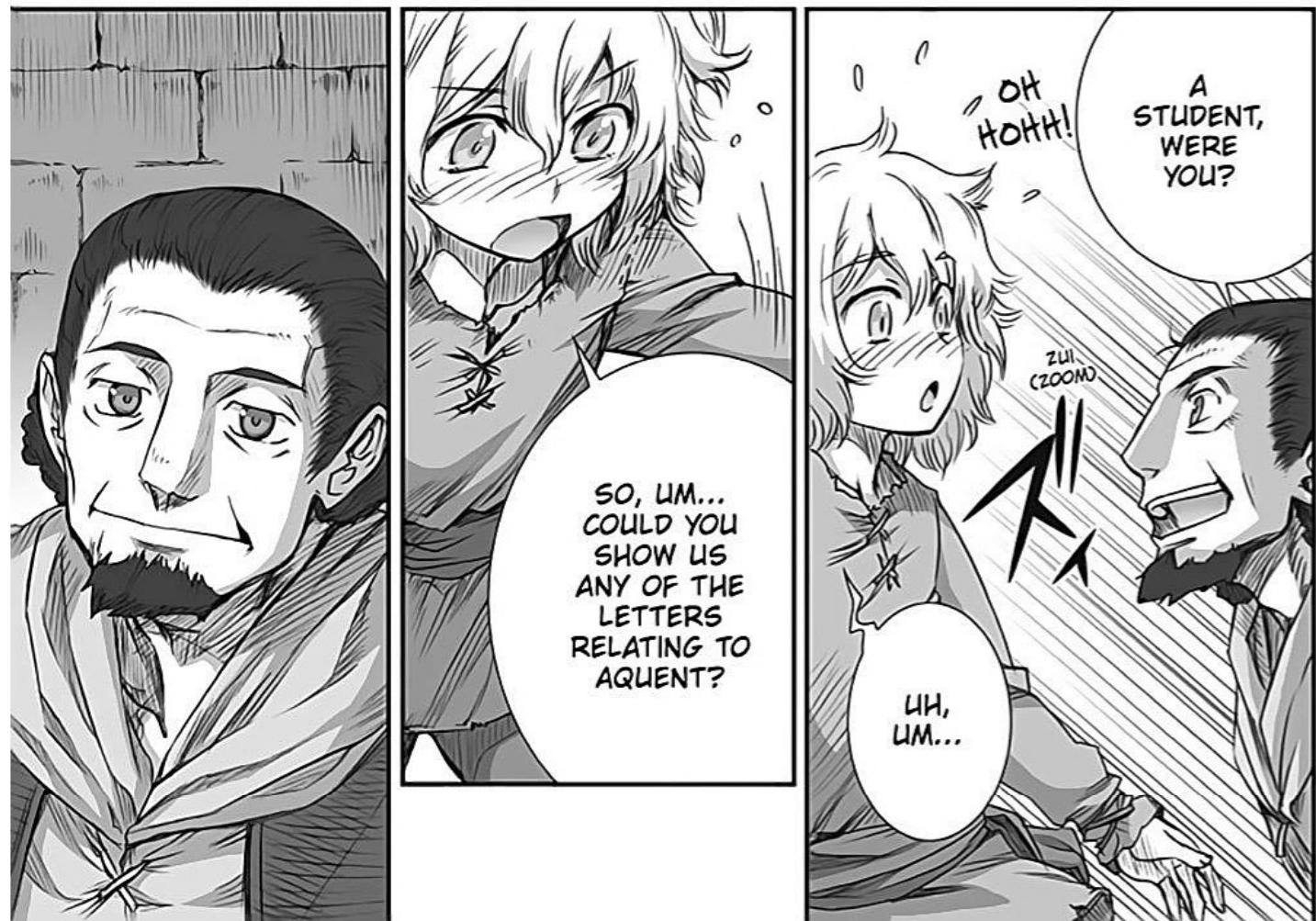


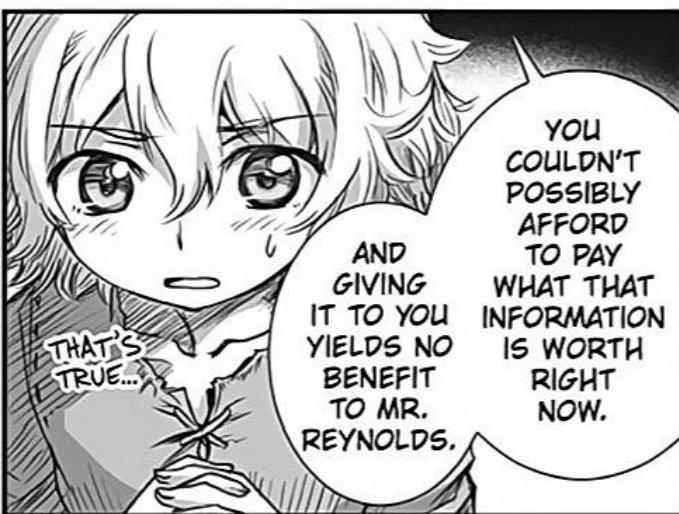
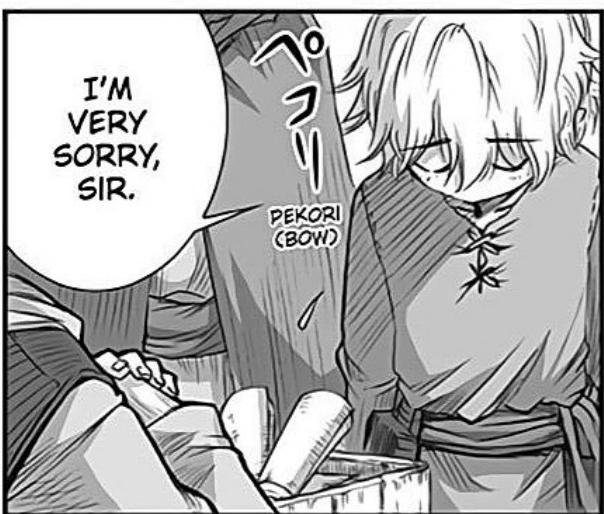
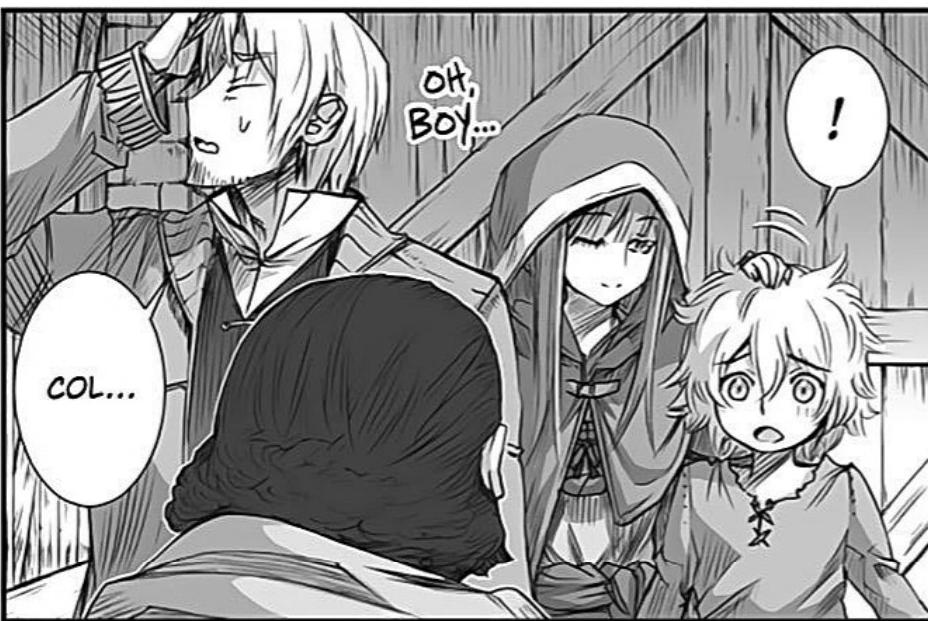
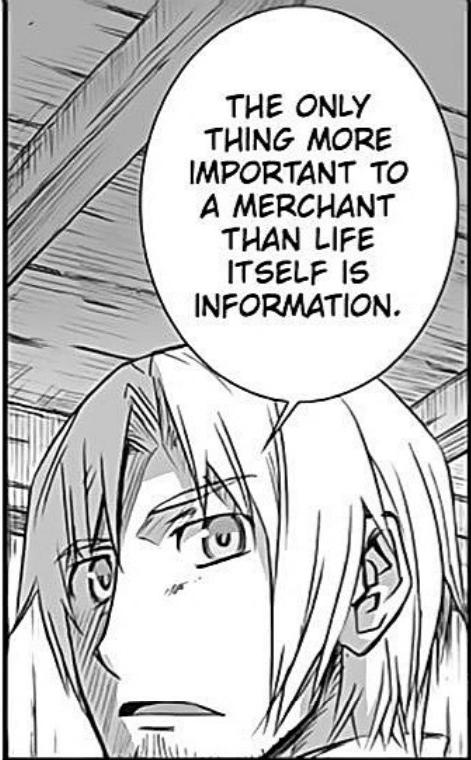
WHICH MEANS I RESPECT ANYONE SHE TRUSTS—YOU, FOR ONE, KRAFT LAWRENCE.

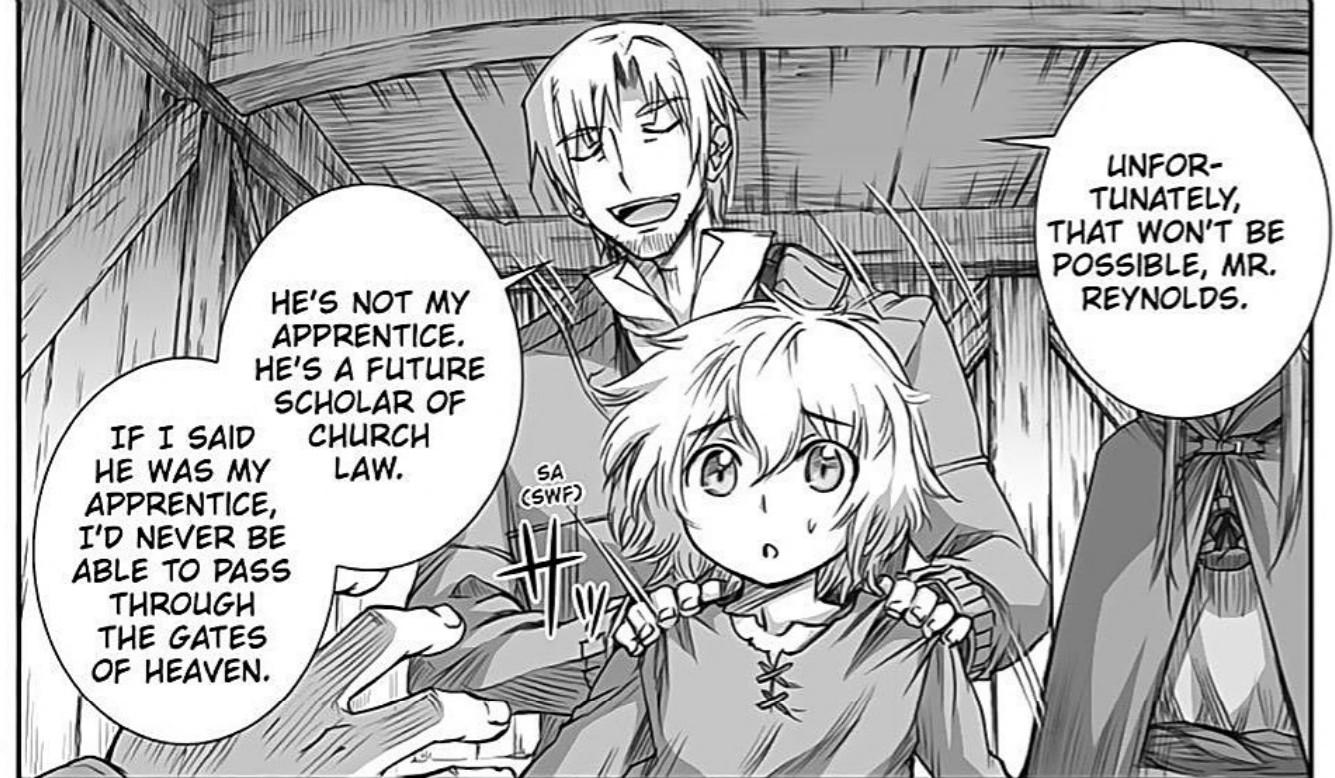
I RESPECT HER.



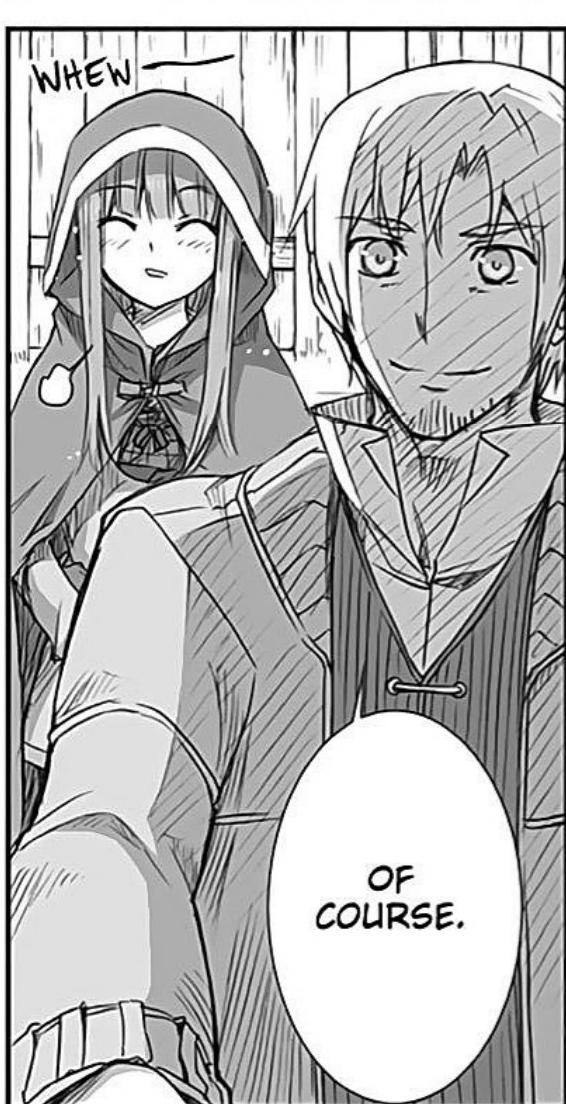
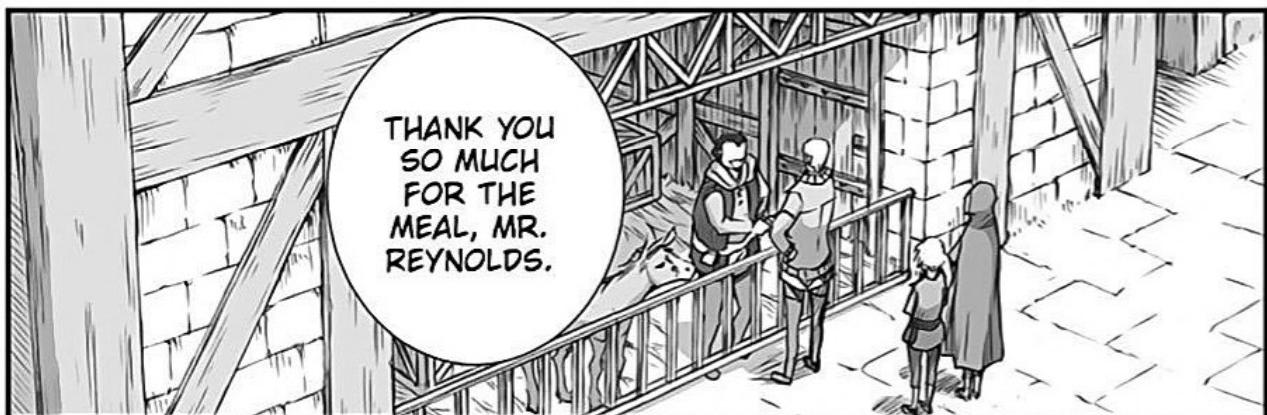
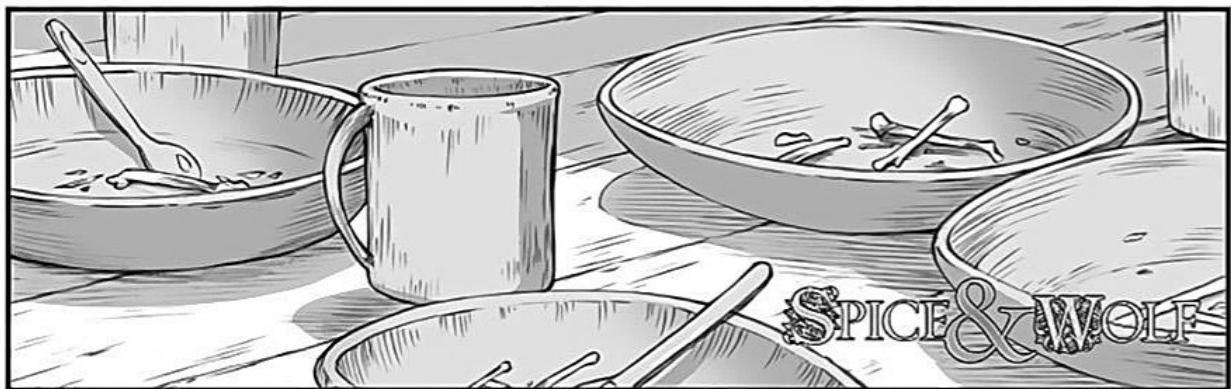










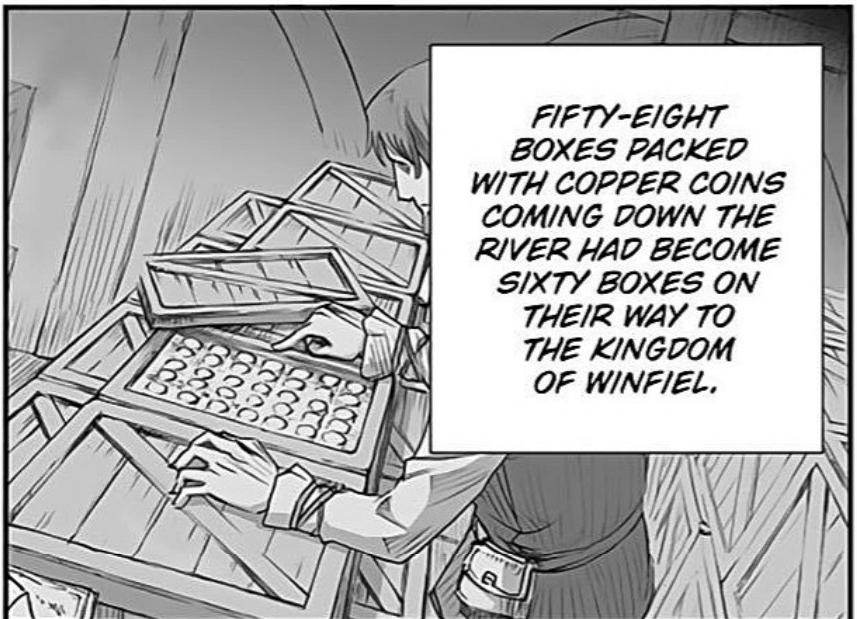


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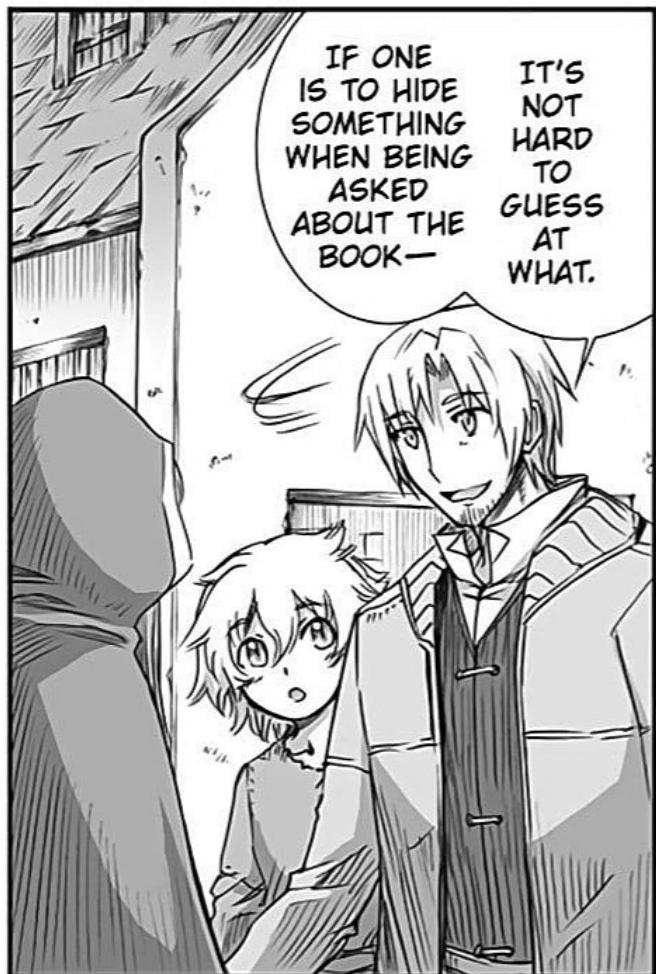


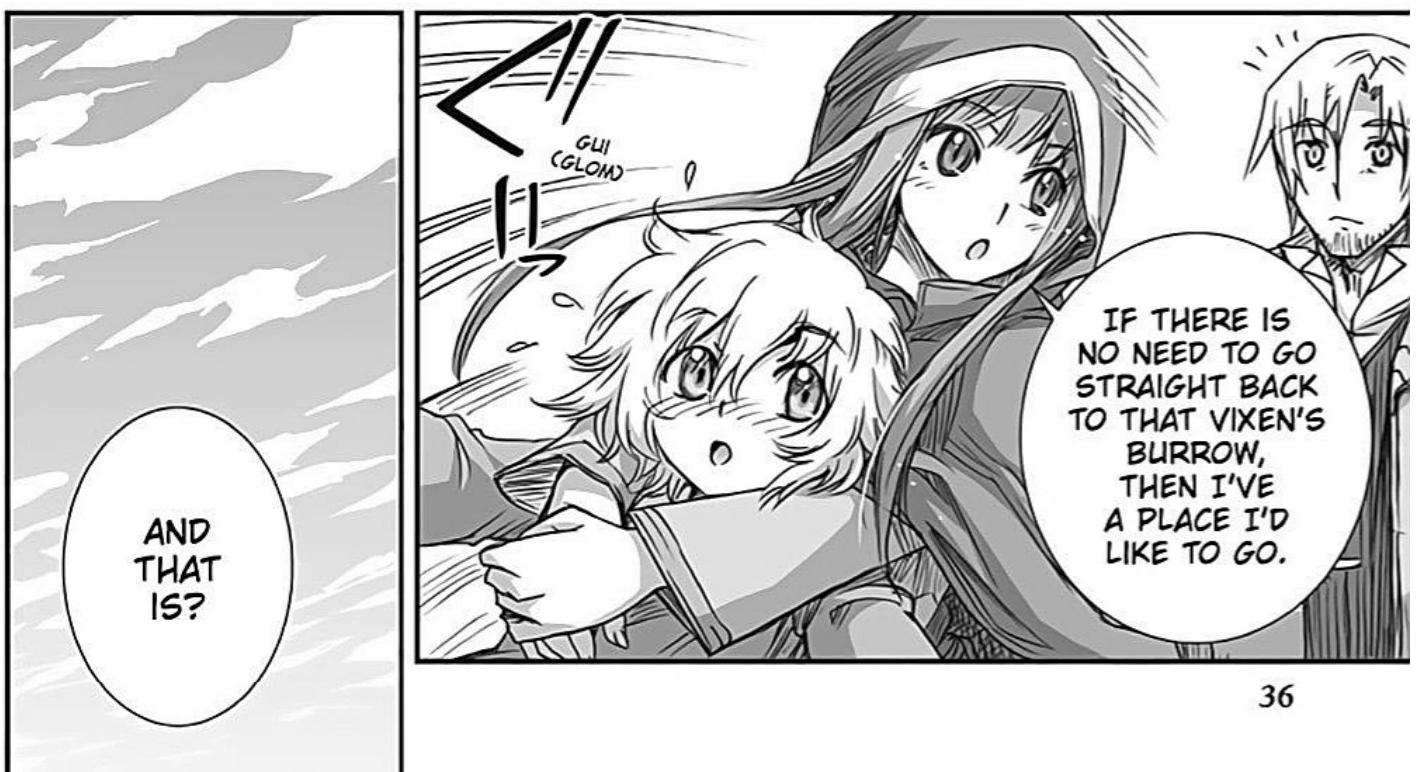


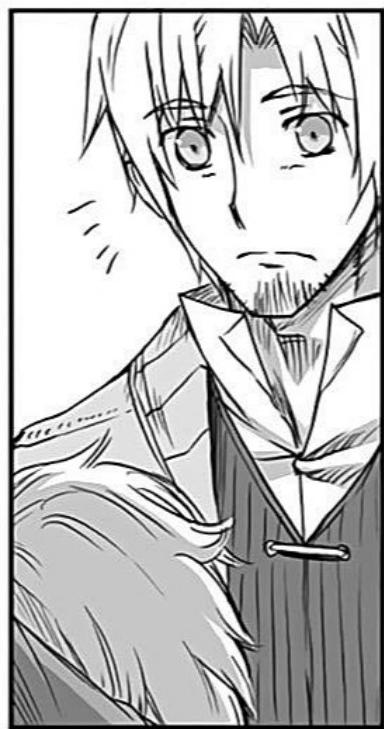


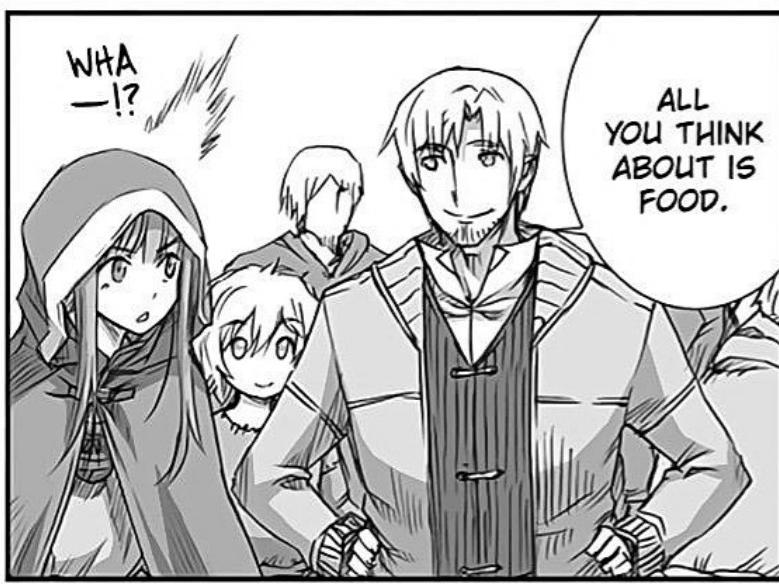




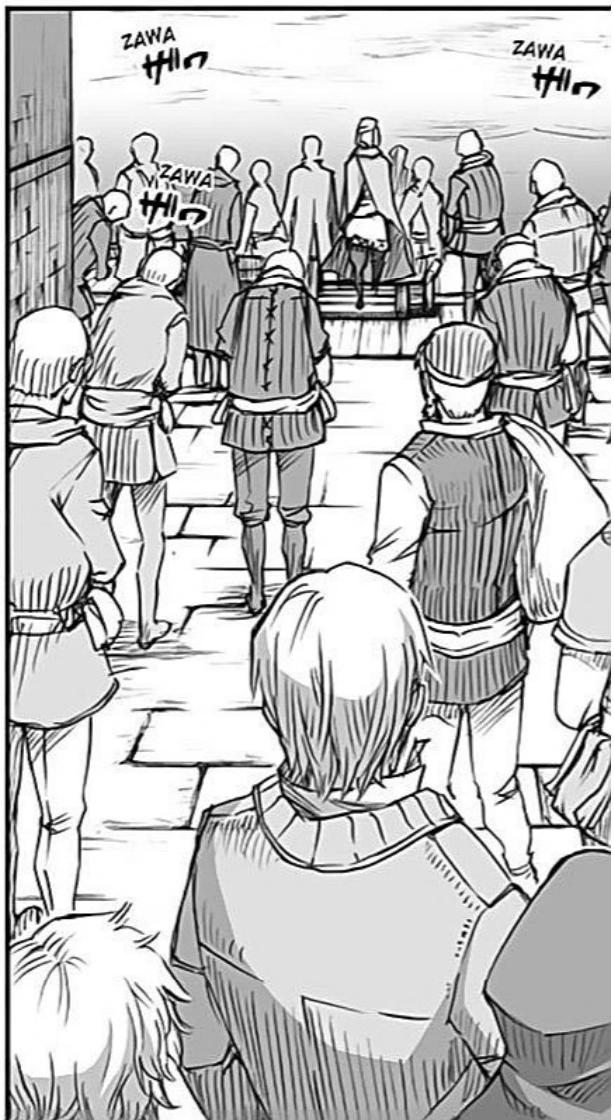
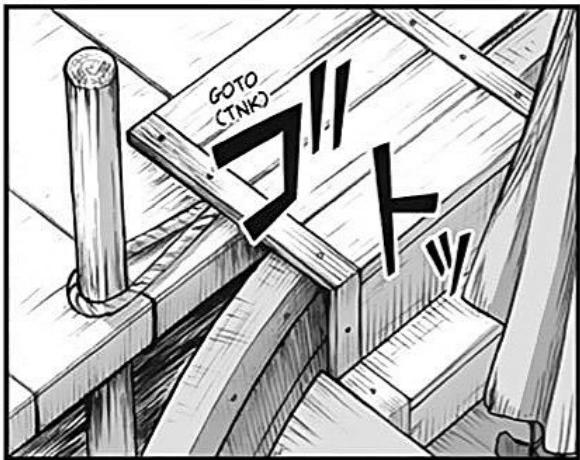


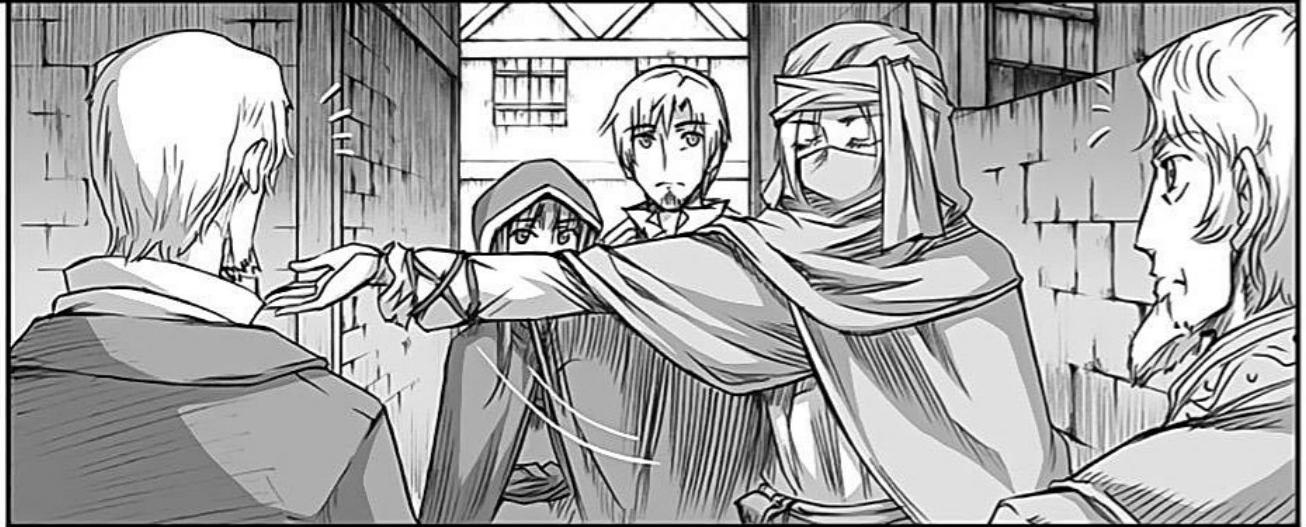
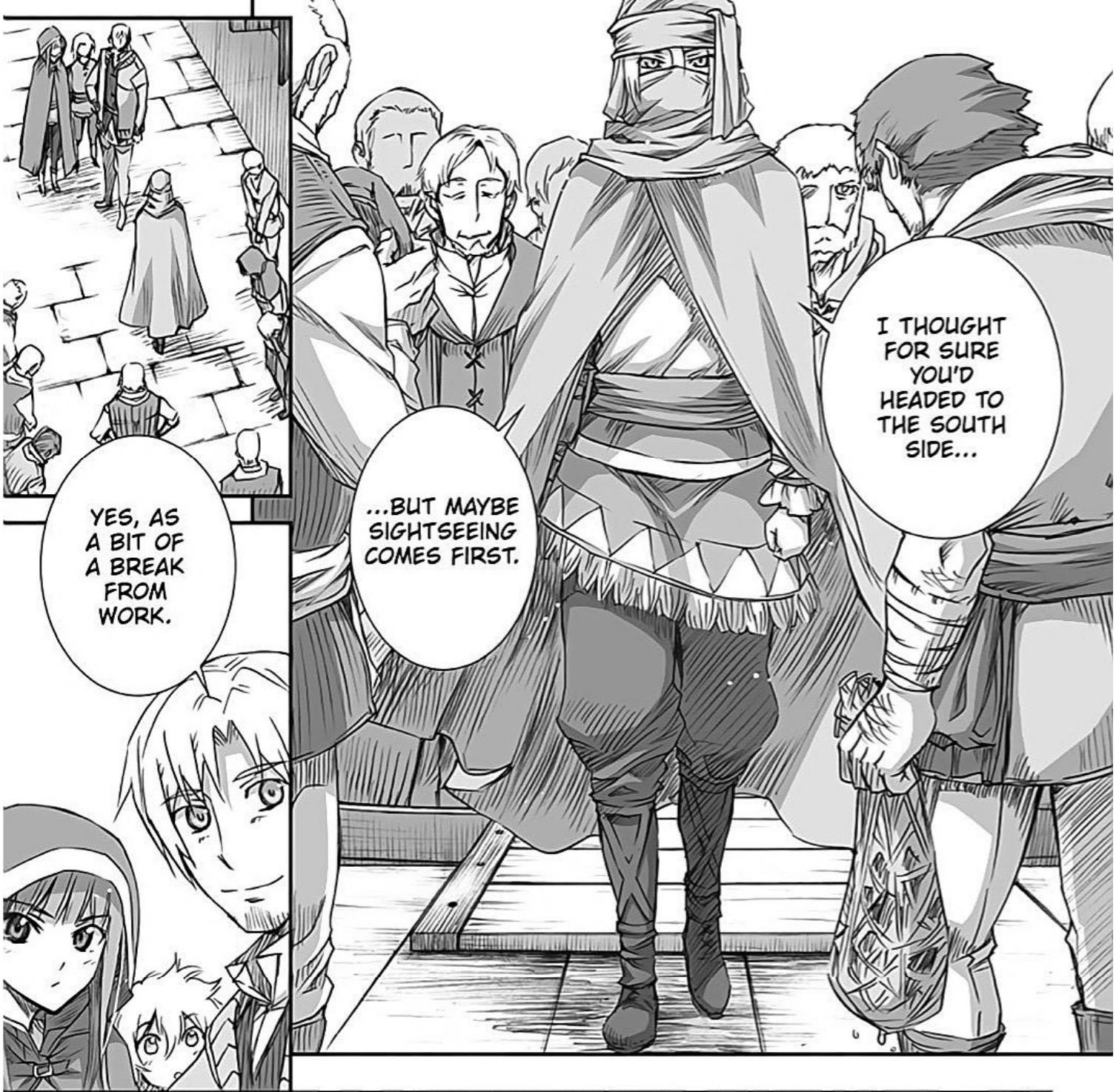


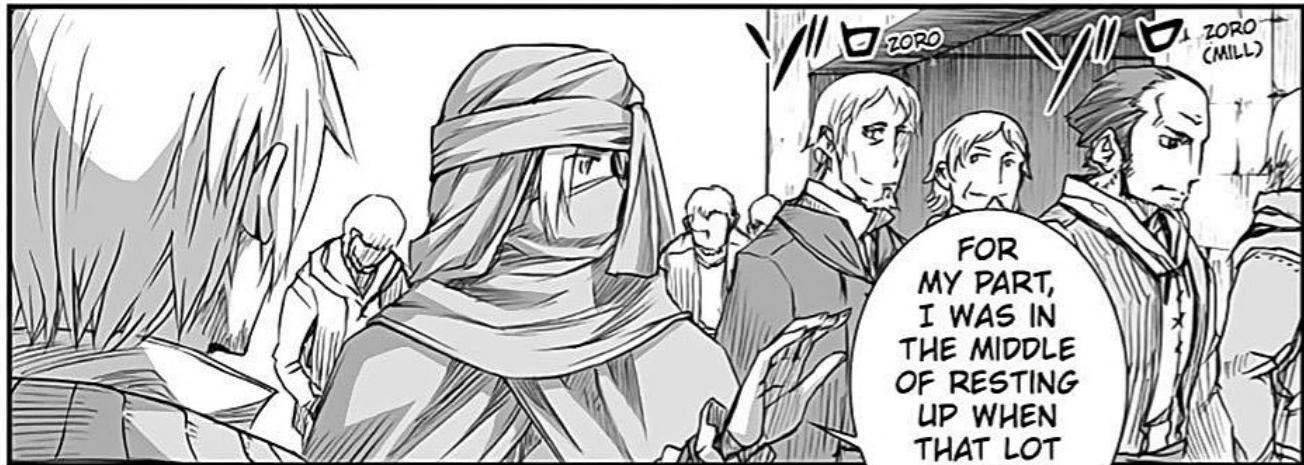




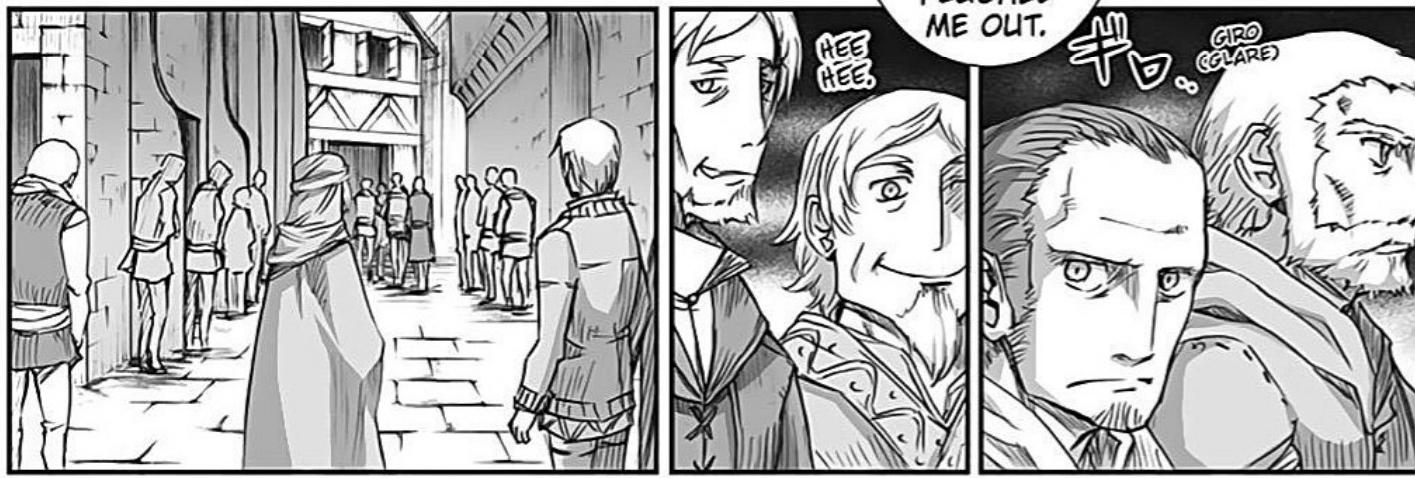








ZORO
FOR MY PART,
I WAS IN
THE MIDDLE
OF RESTING
UP WHEN THAT LOT
FLUSHED ME OUT.



ZORO (MILL)
HEE HEE.
GRO GLARE



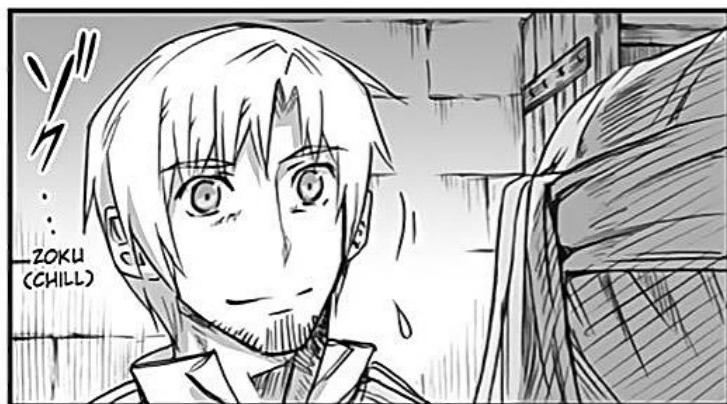
THEY'RE NOT
INVOLVED
IN BUYING
OR SELLING
GOODS.



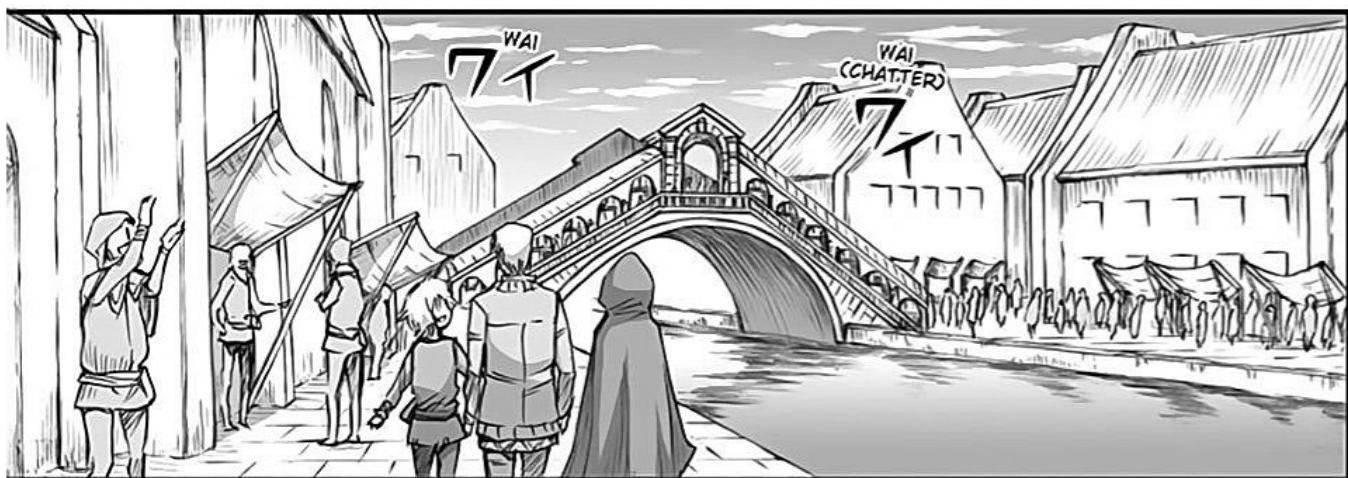
ARE THEY
MERCHANTS?



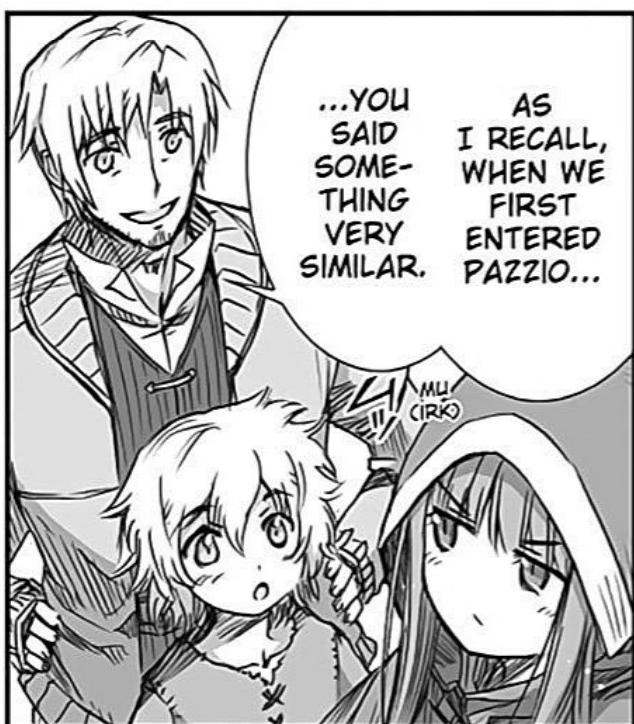
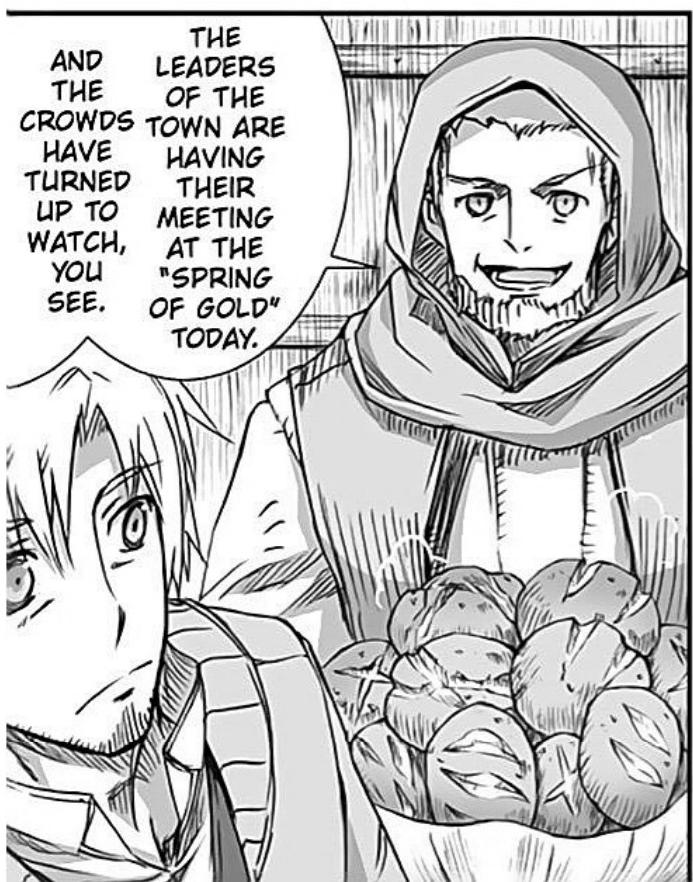
ZUI
(CLOSED)
THEY'RE
FROM THE
NORTH SIDE
OF TOWN.

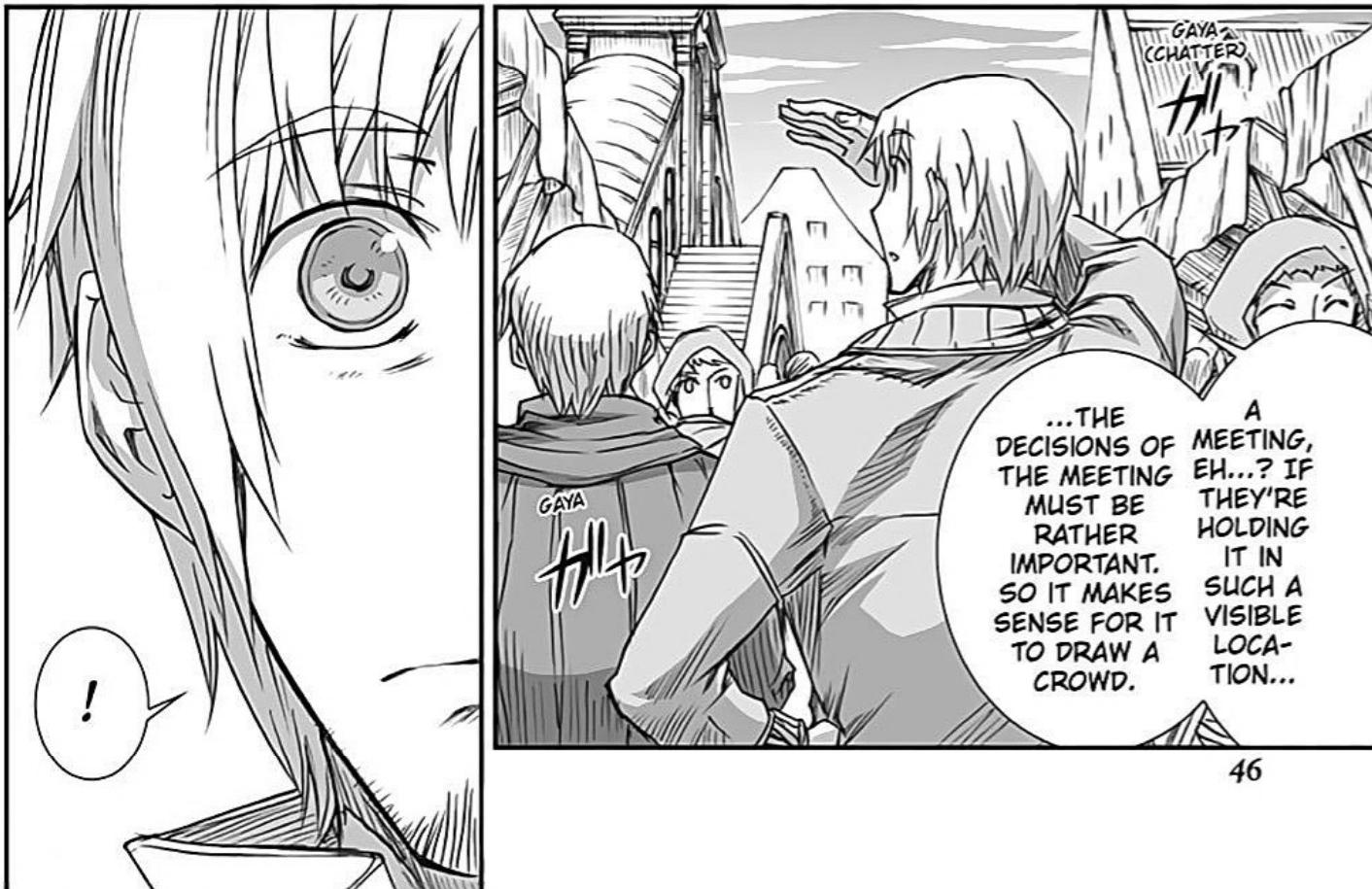
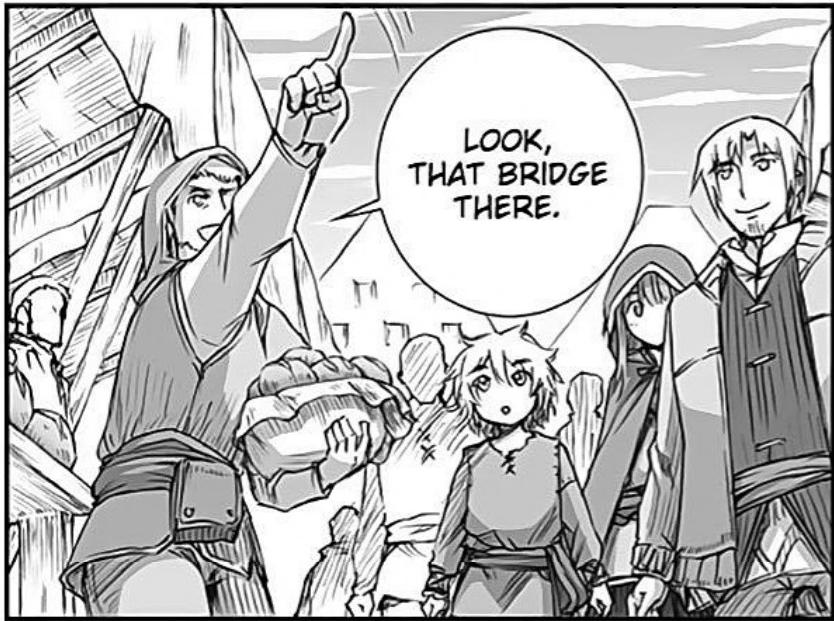


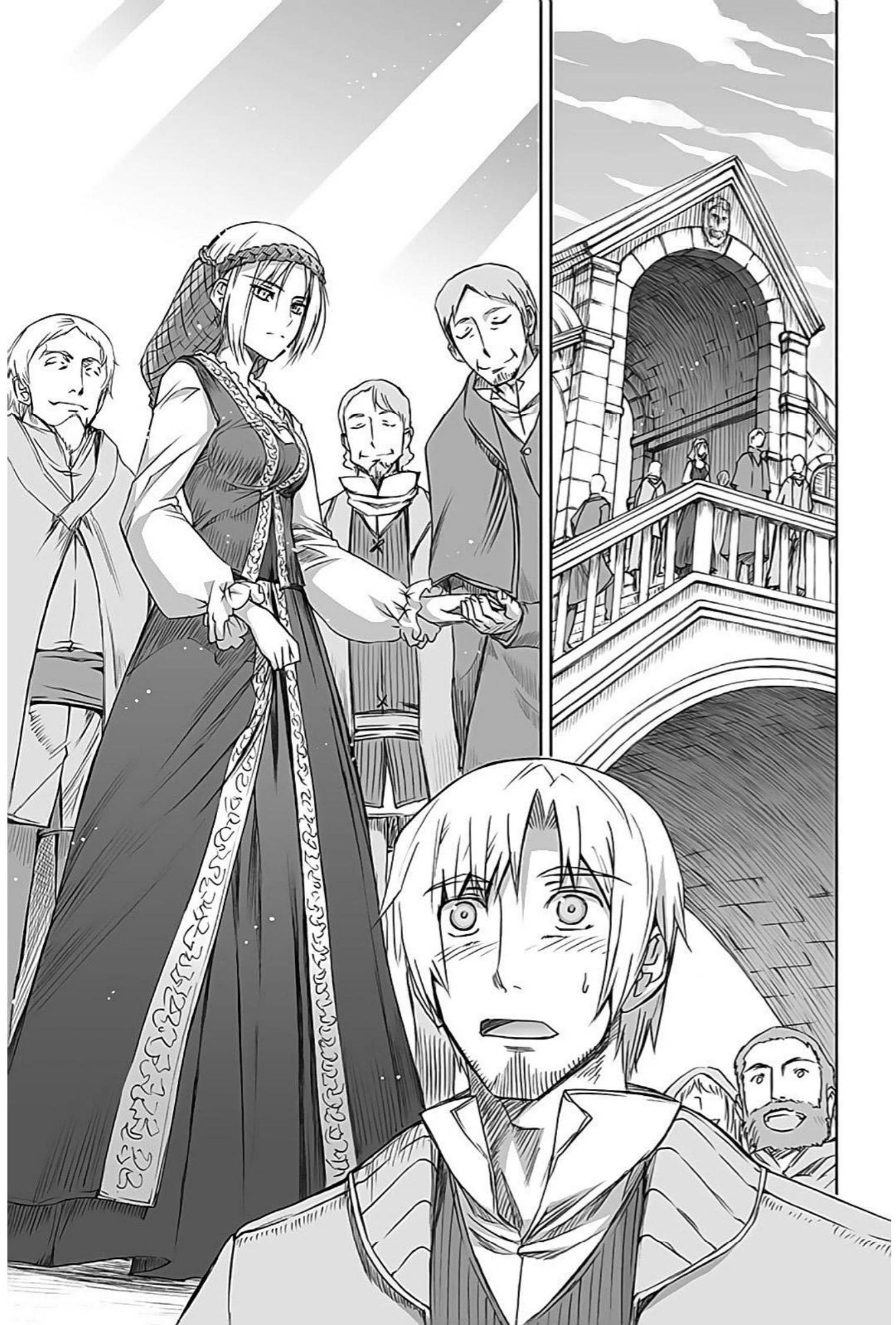
-BUT
THEY'RE
AWFULY
GOOD AT
BOOK-
KEEPING.



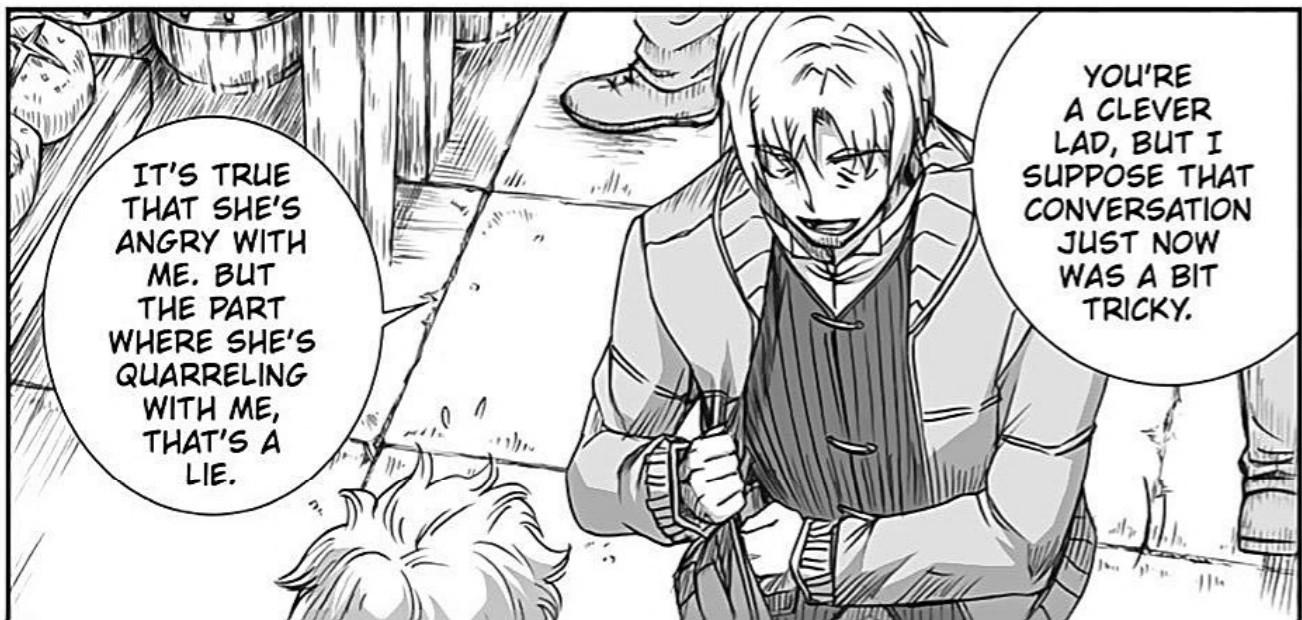
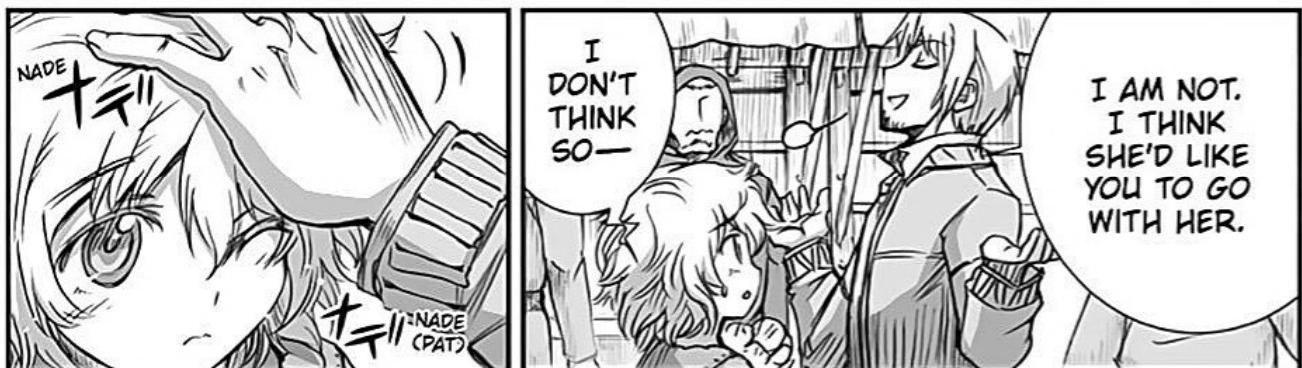
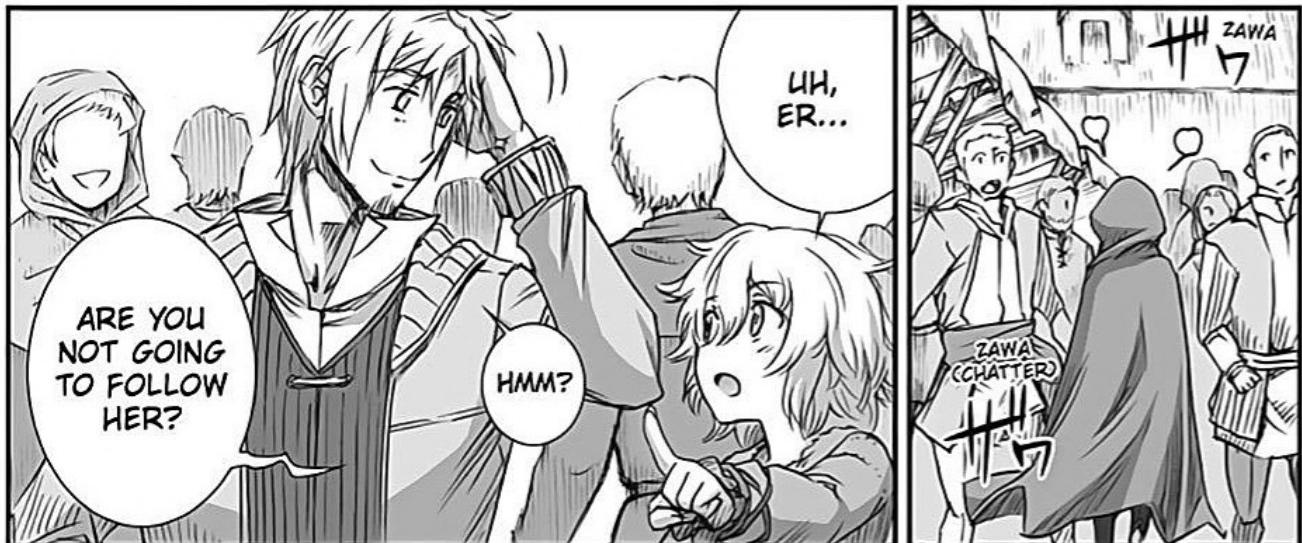




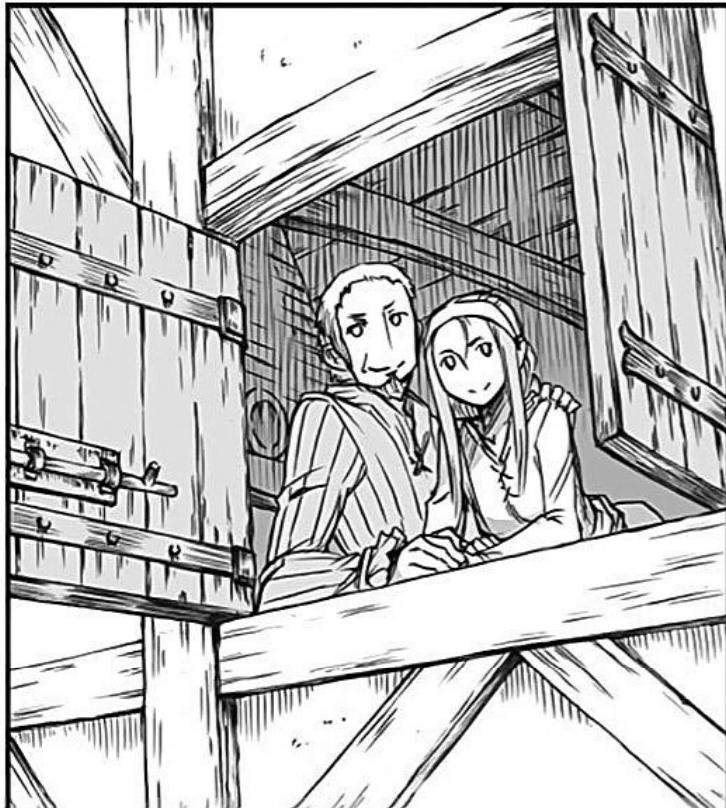
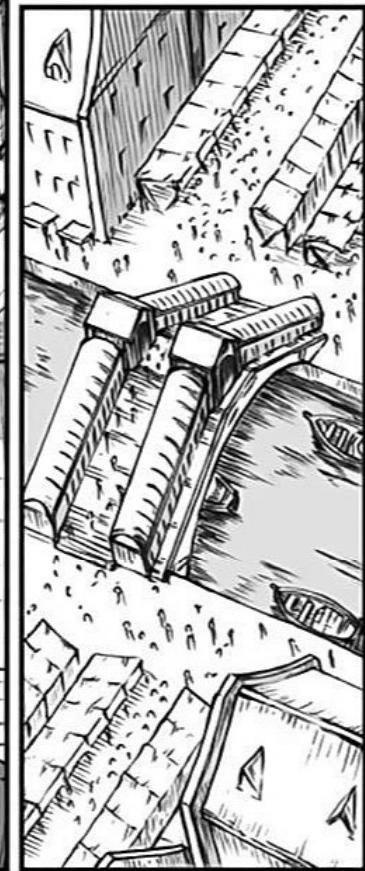


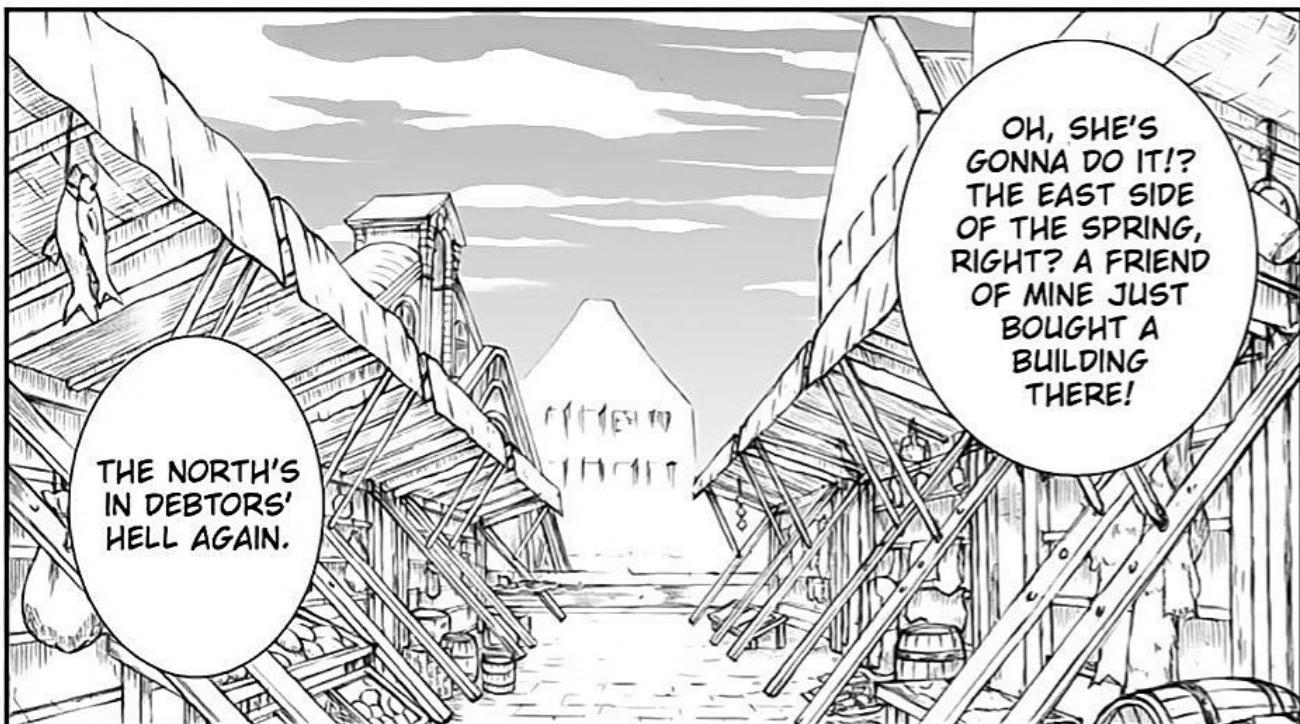
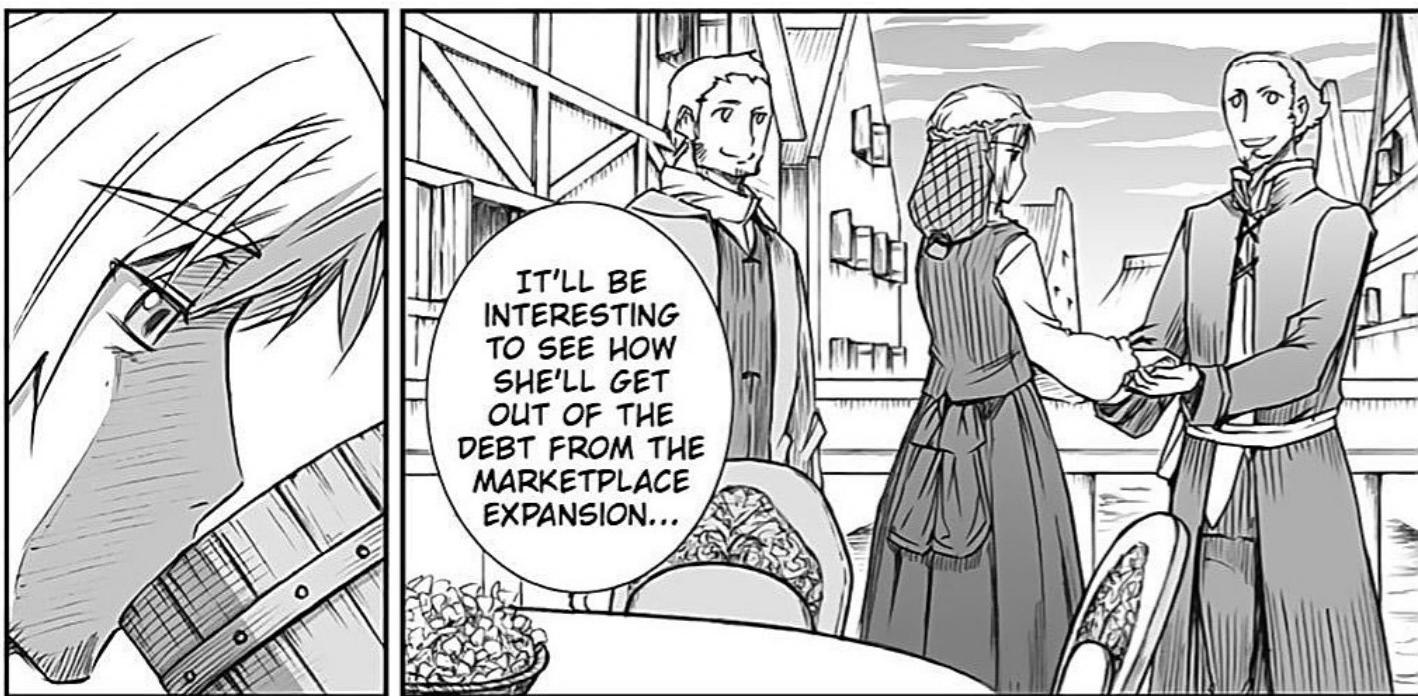


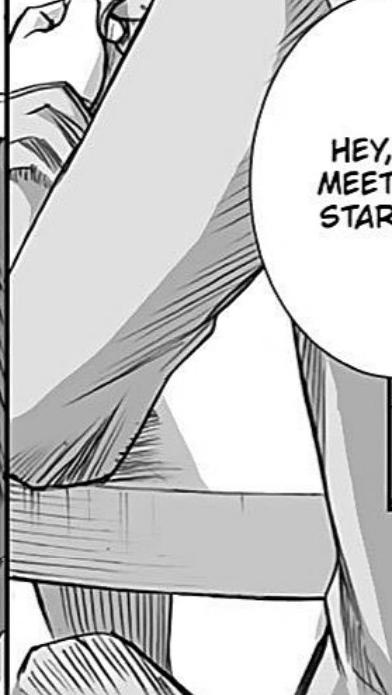
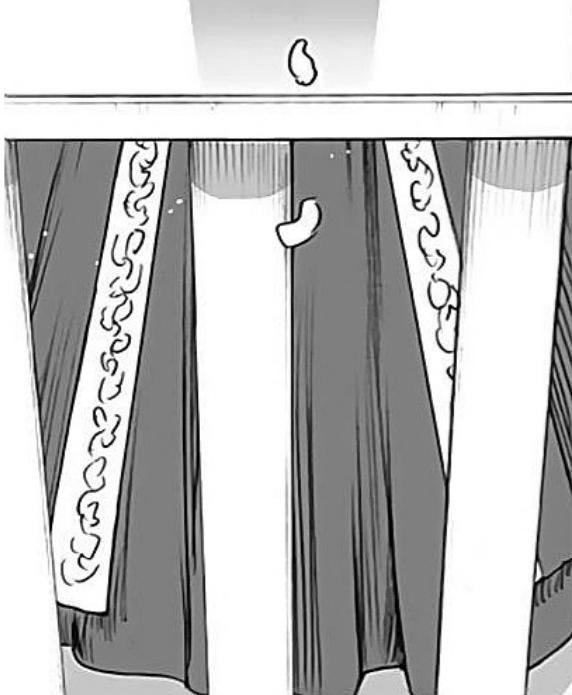
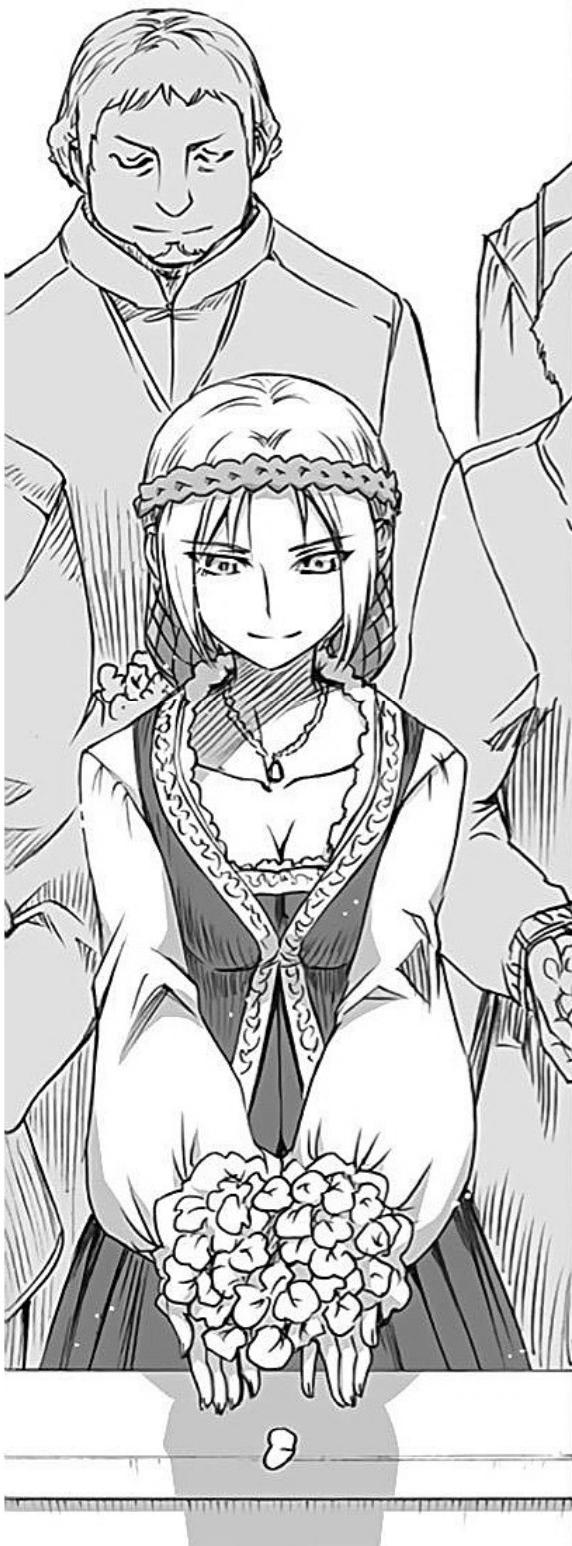


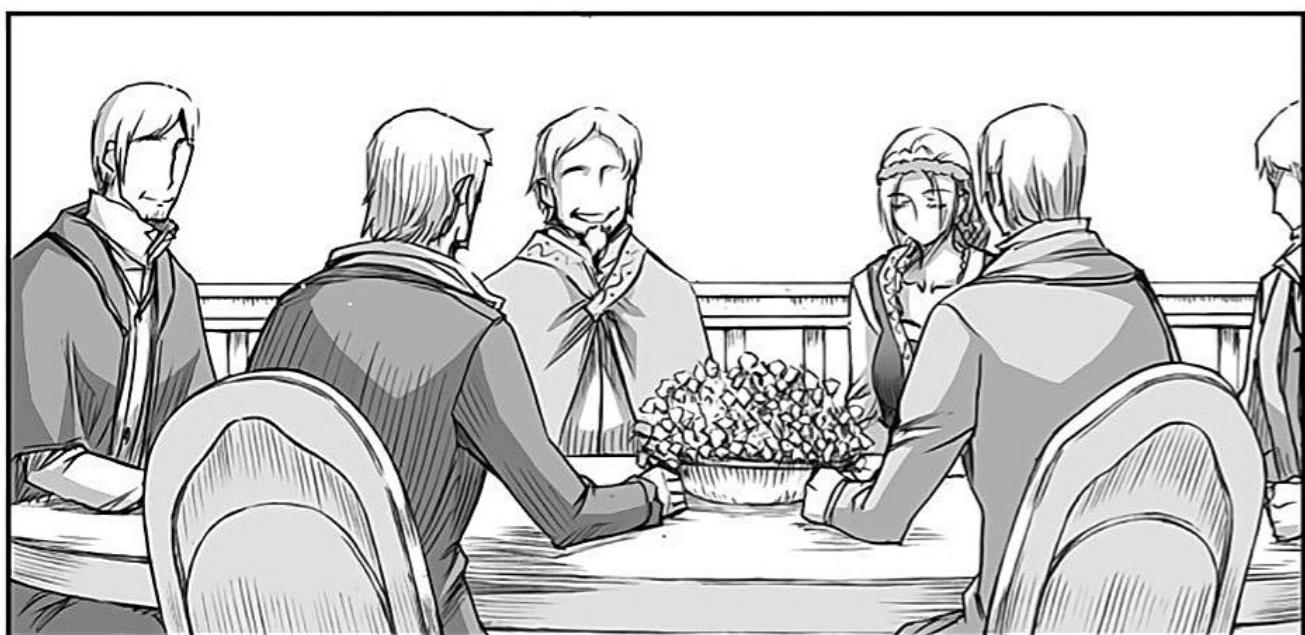




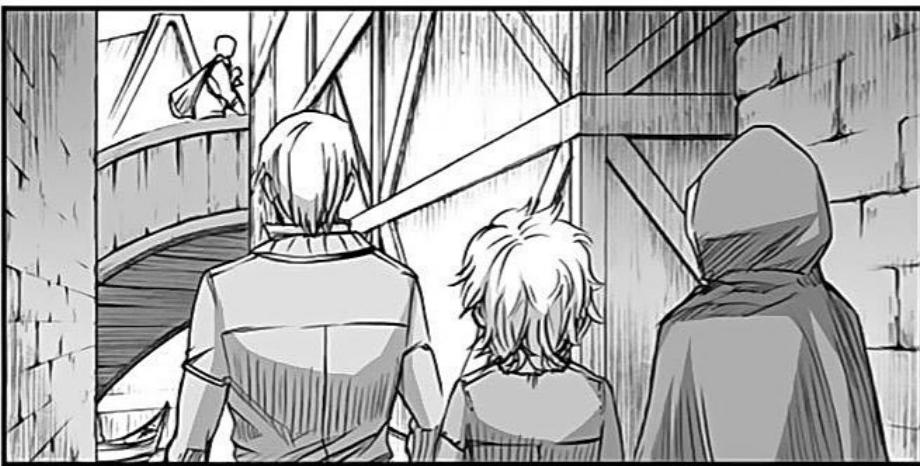




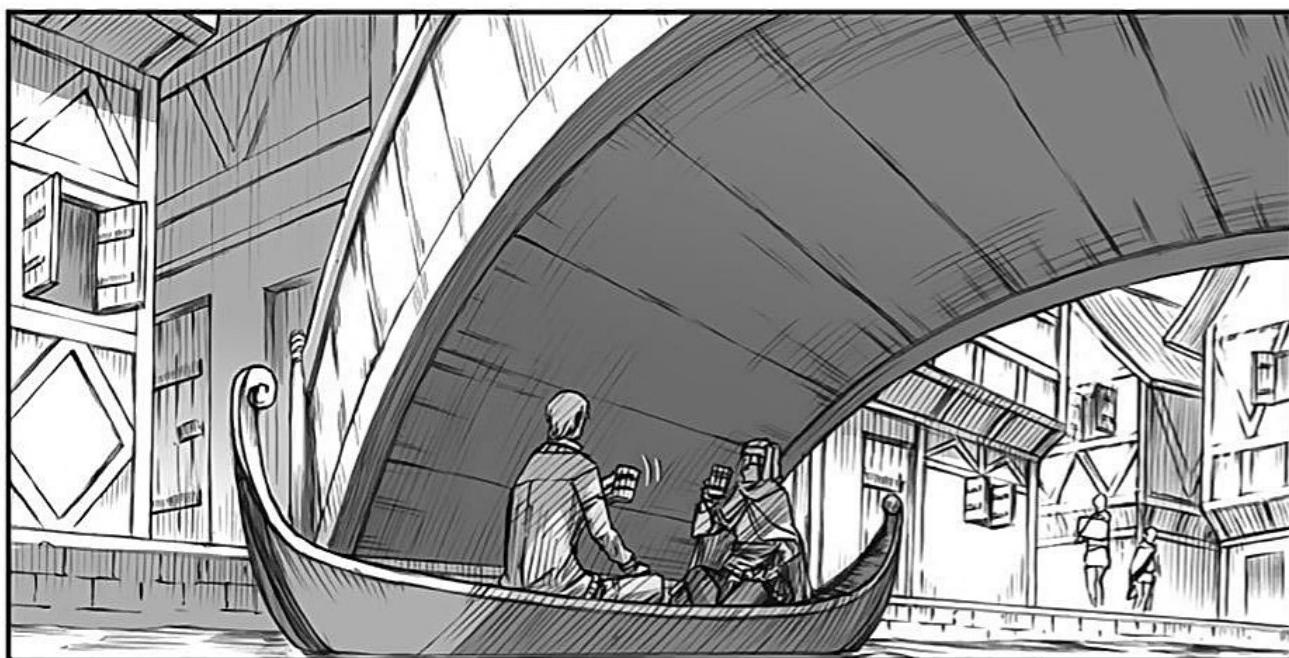


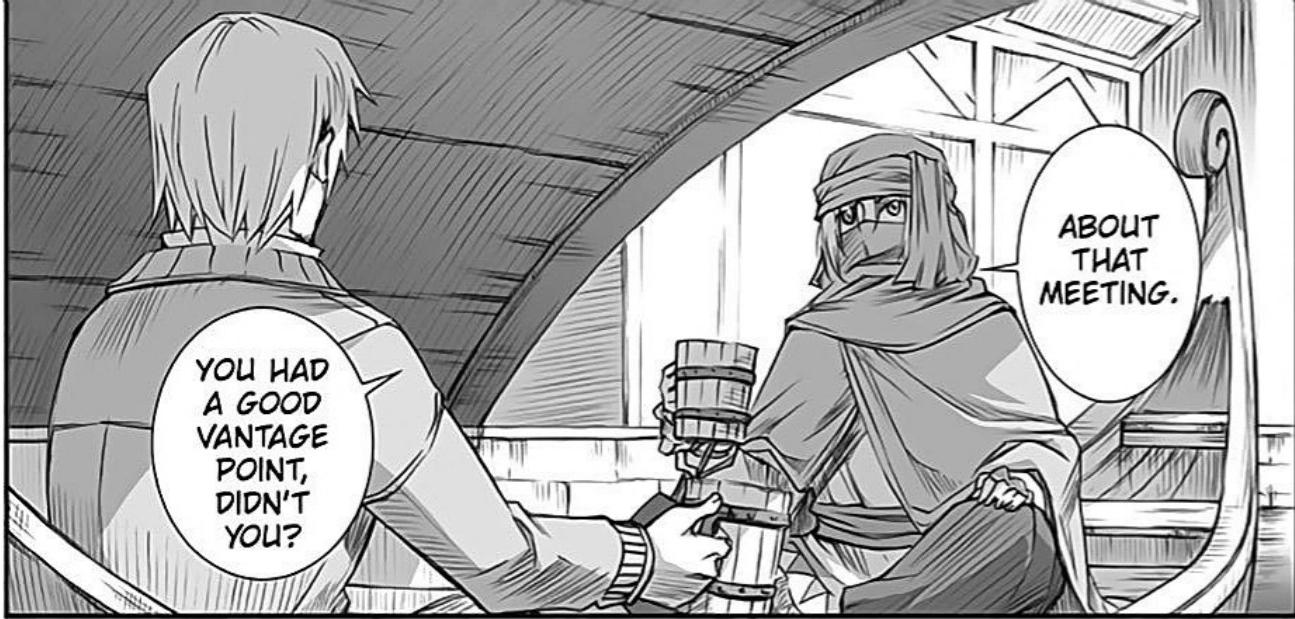






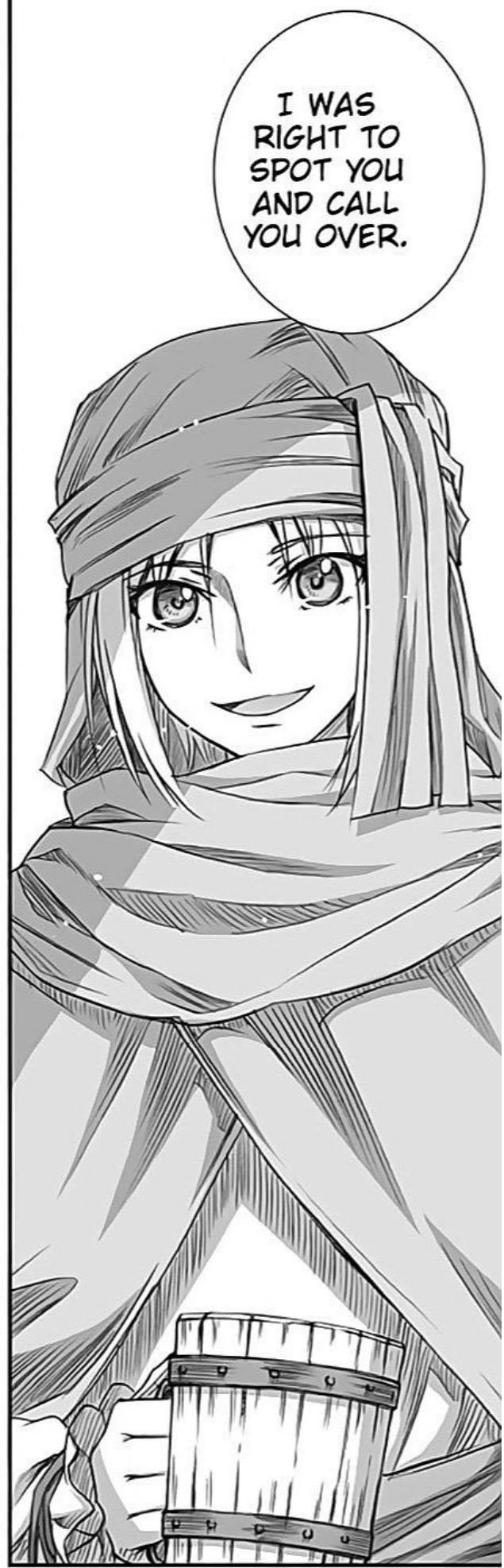
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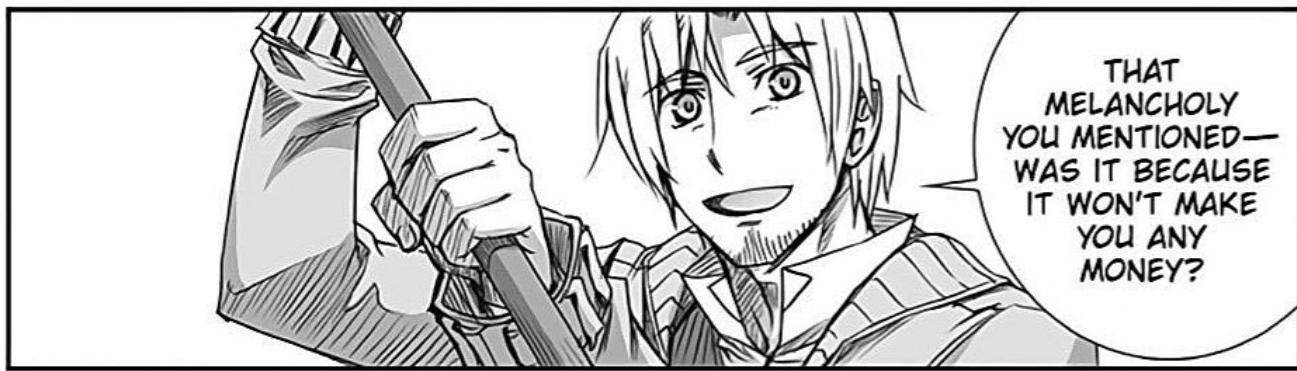
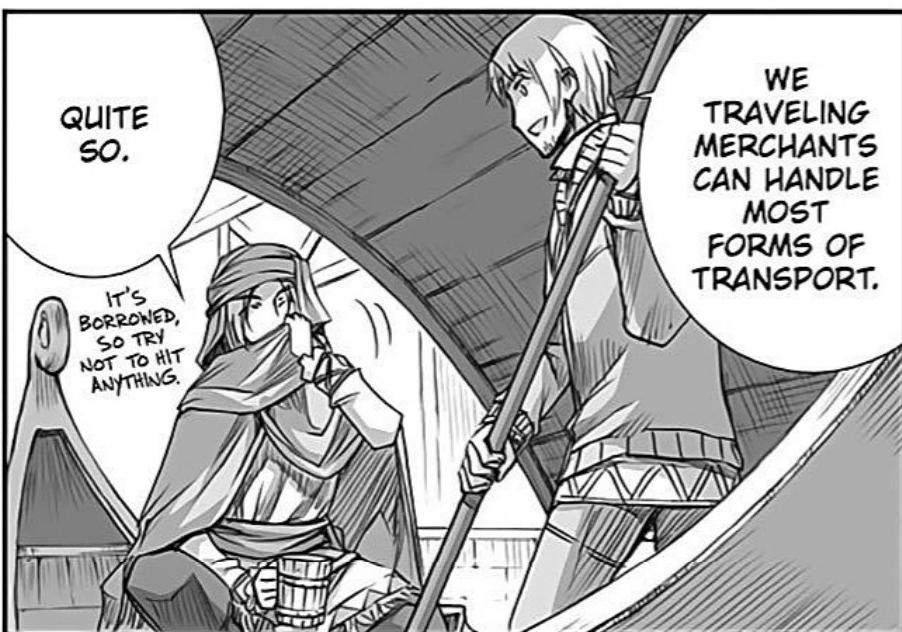


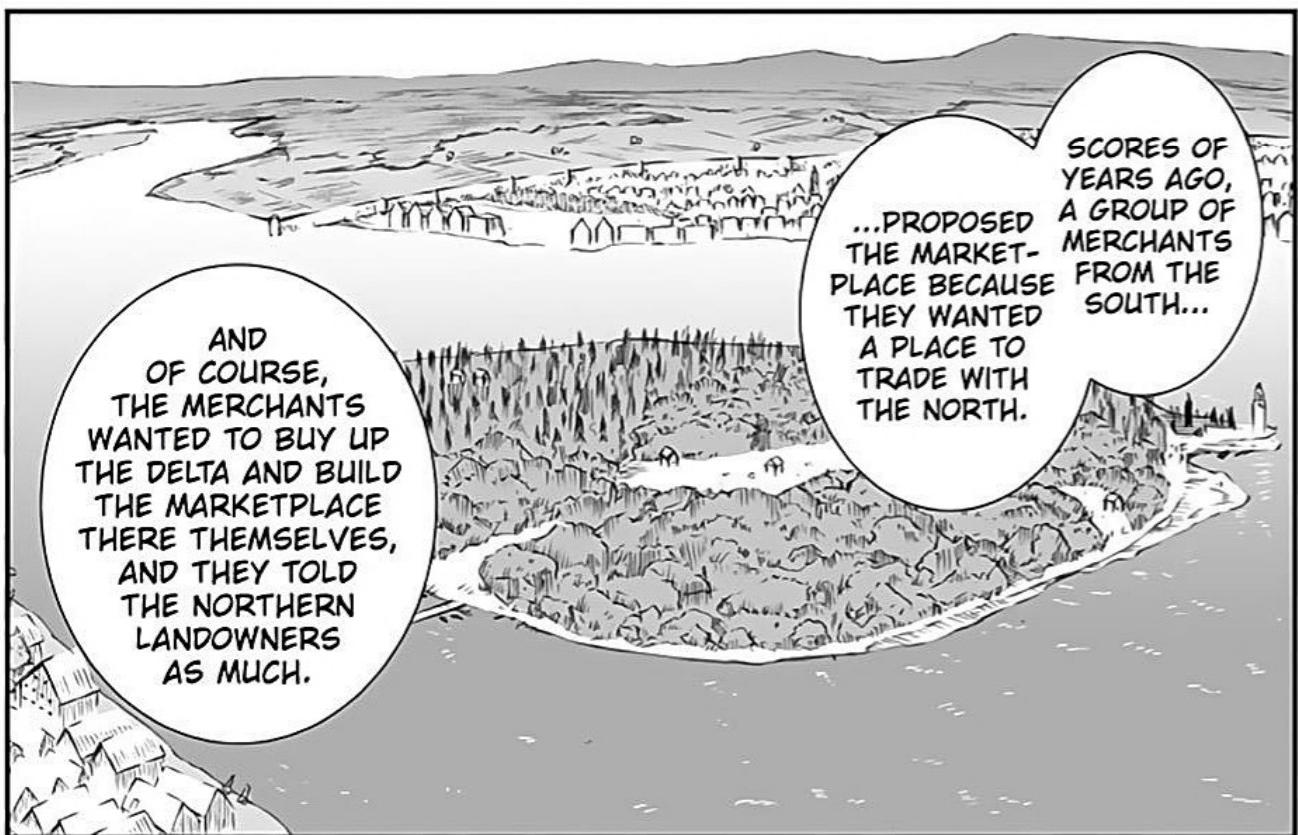


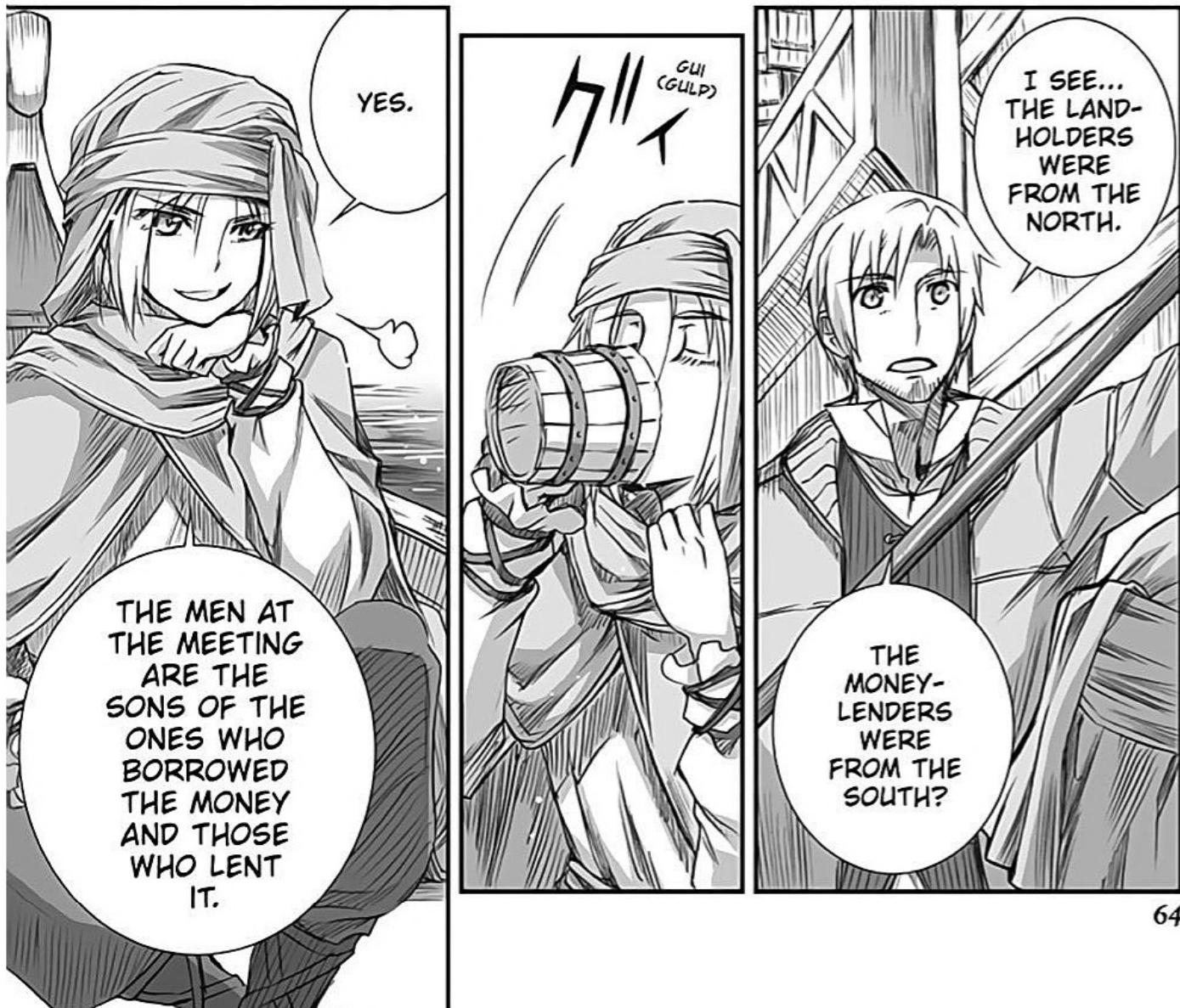
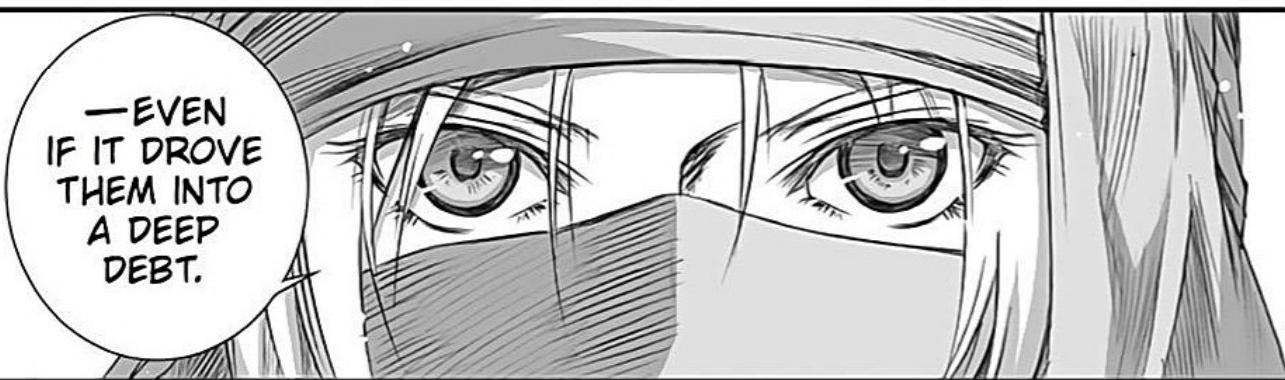
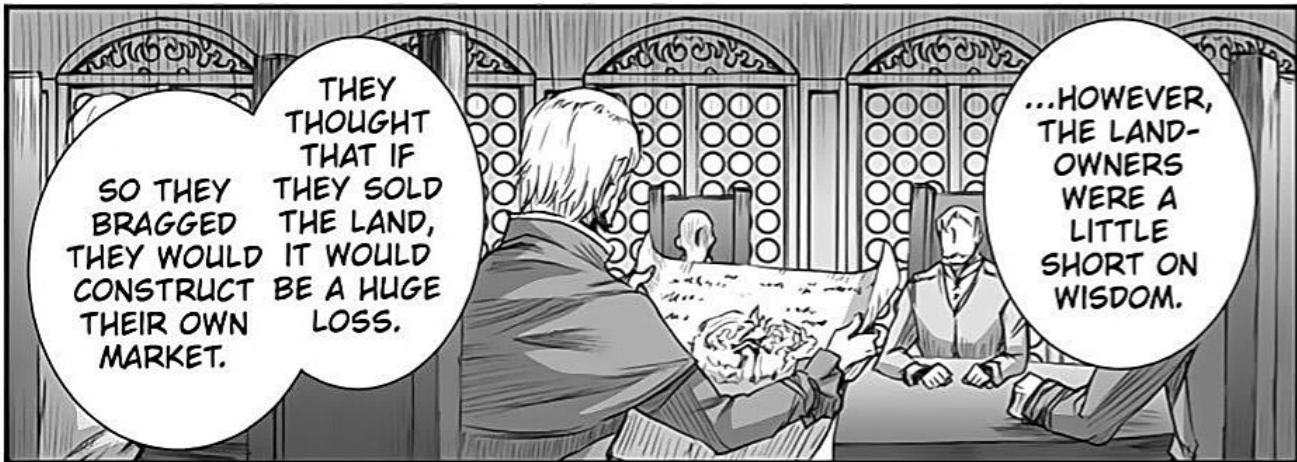






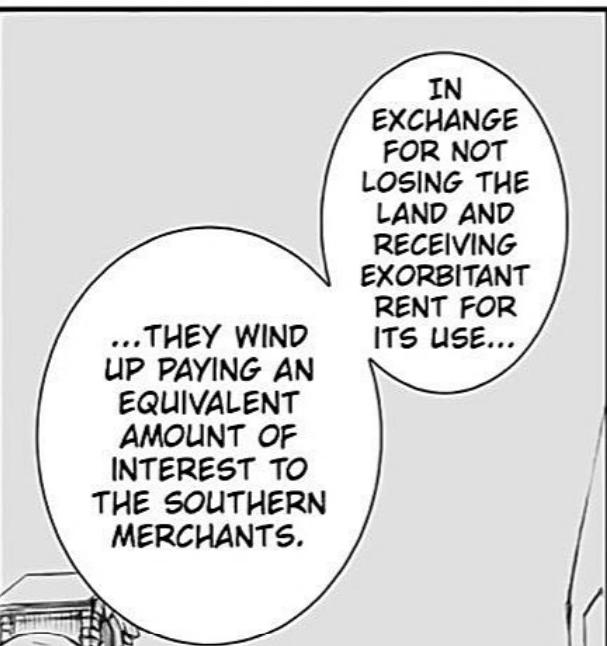






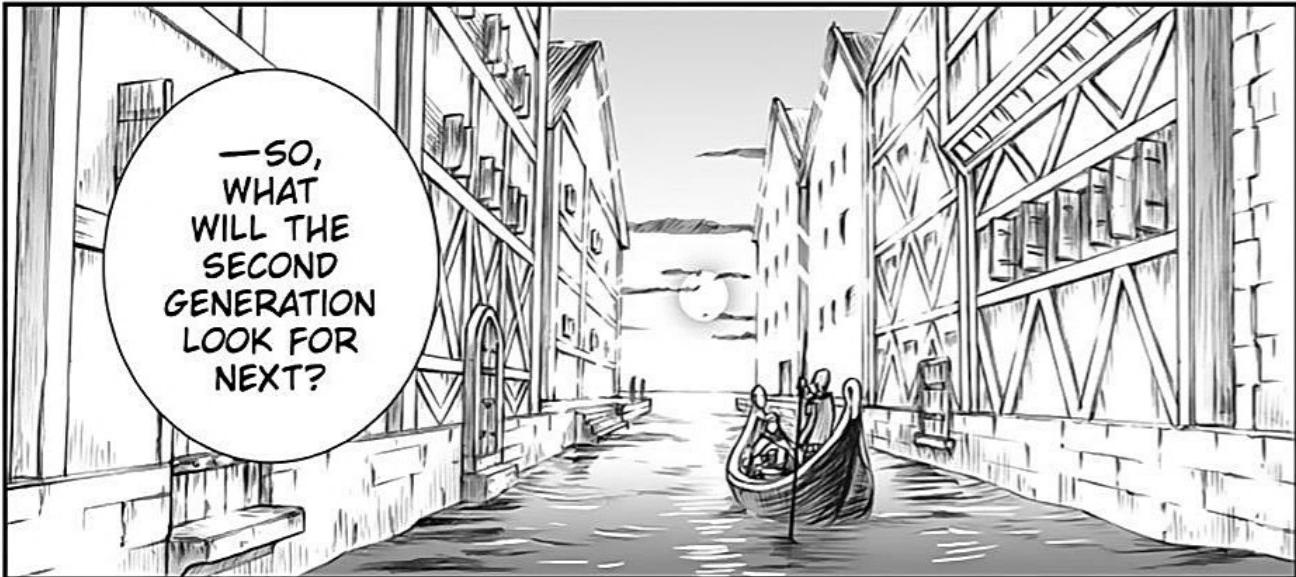


OF COURSE, THE LANDOWNERS CAN'T HIDE THEIR IRRITATION AT THIS AND ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.



IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT LOSING THE LAND AND RECEIVING EXORBITANT RENT FOR ITS USE...

...THEY WIND UP PAYING AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF INTEREST TO THE SOUTHERN MERCHANTS.



—SO, WHAT WILL THE SECOND GENERATION LOOK FOR NEXT?



...BUT EVEN
A PLACE THAT
DEALS ONLY
IN COPPER
EXPORTS HAS
ITS PROFIT
SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
POWERS
THAT BE.

KUH!

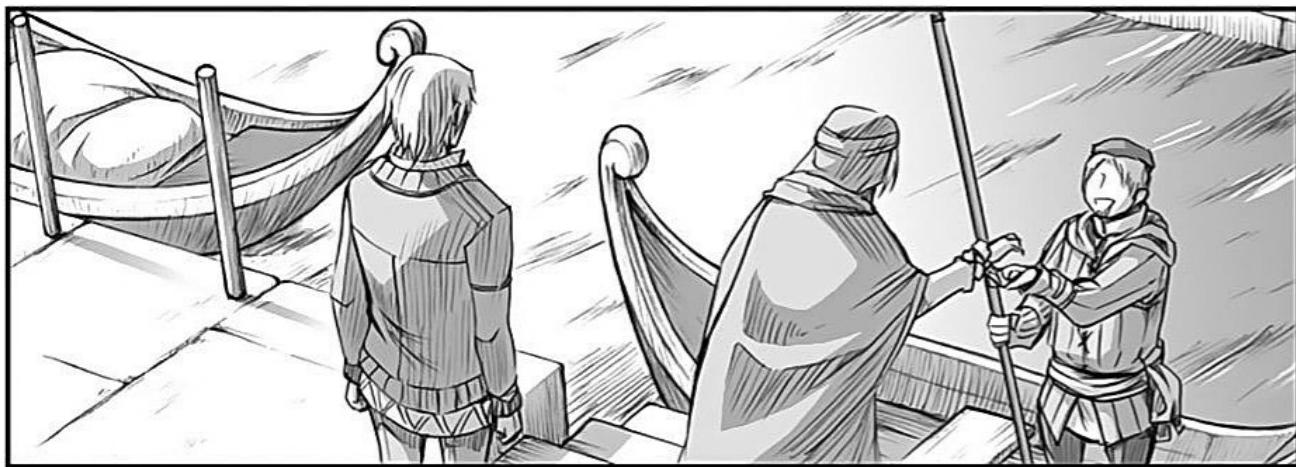
KUH!

AT LEAST BE
A LITTLE MORE
CIRCUMSPECT
ABOUT IT!

THAT'S
THE SORT
OF PLACE
THIS IS.

AH,
IT'S
THE
BOAT-
MAN.

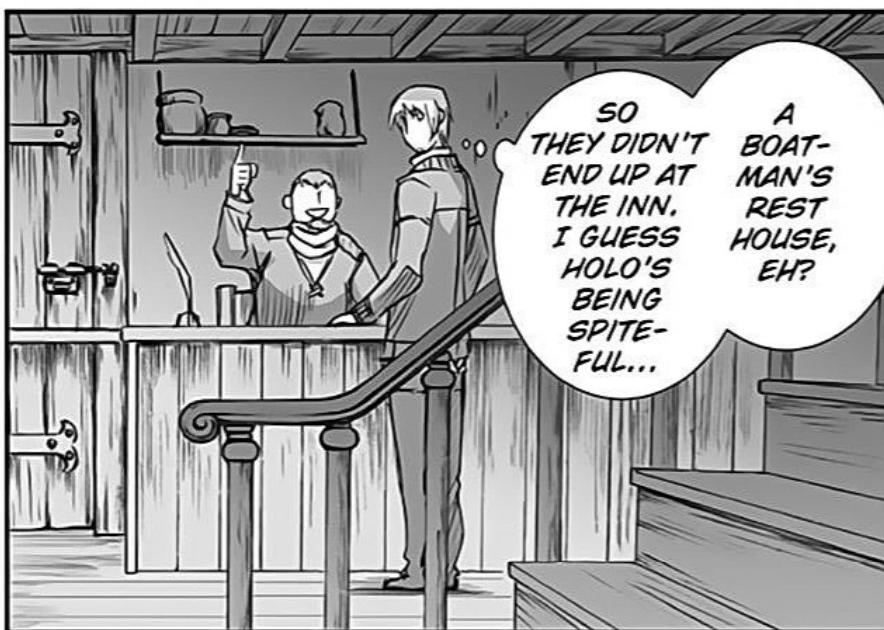
HO
THERE!

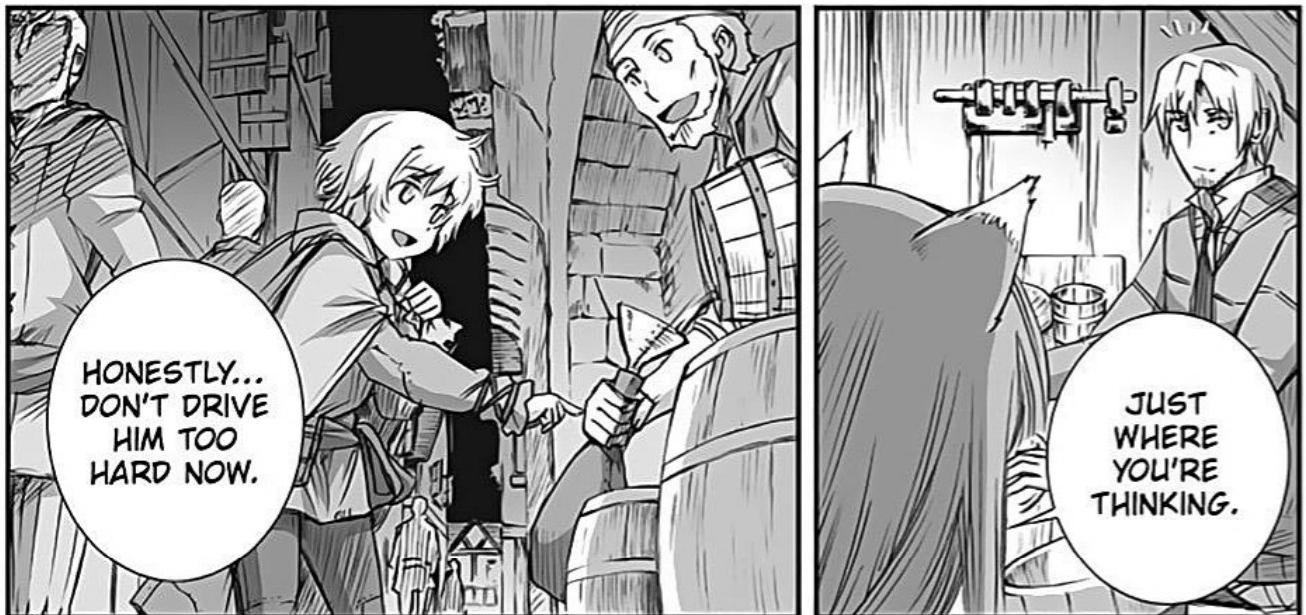


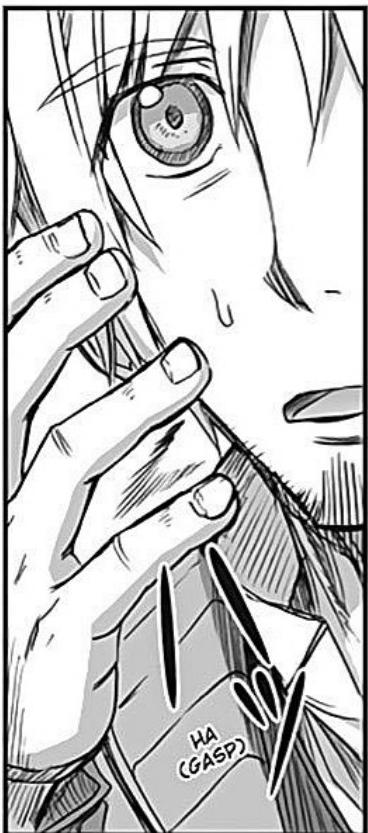
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YOU'RE A
CENTURY TOO
YOUNG TO TRY
LYING TO ME.



...'TIS
A BIT
COLD.



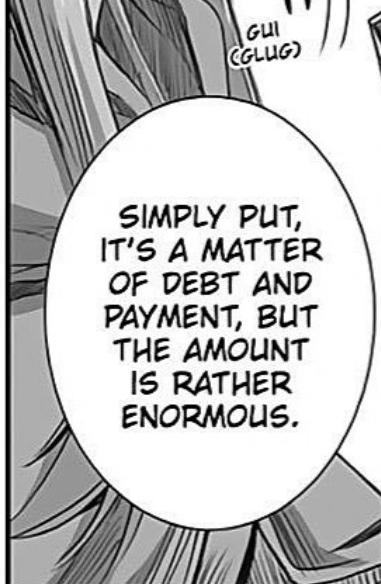
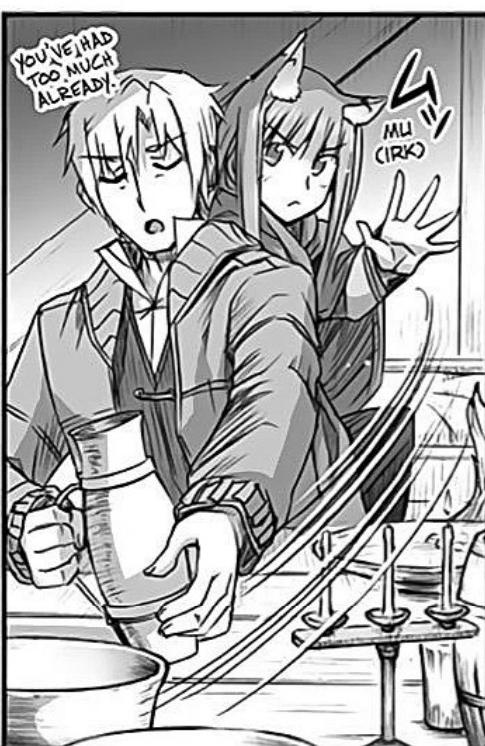
IF YOU'RE
TRIPPED UP
BY SUCH A
RUSE, YOU'VE
MUCH TO
LEARN YET.

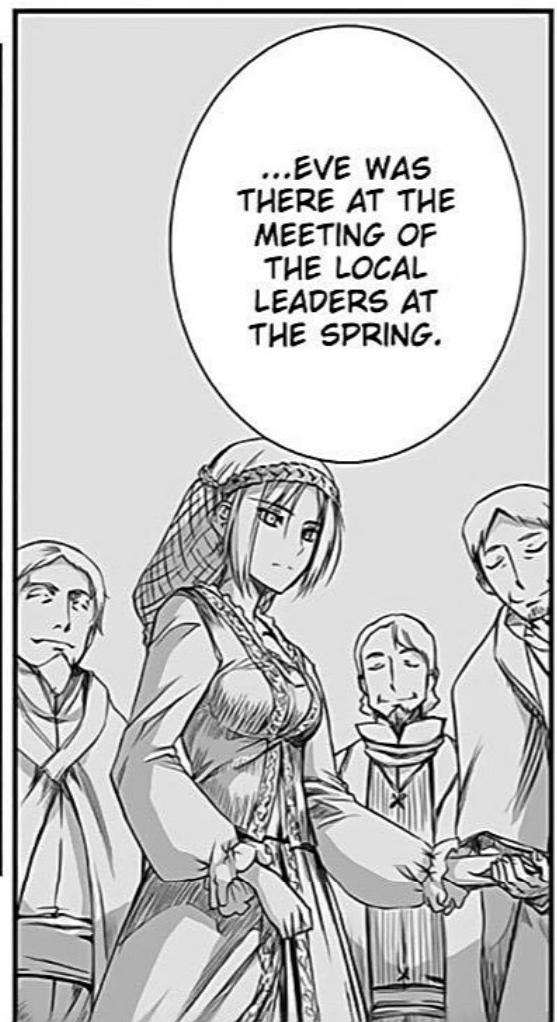
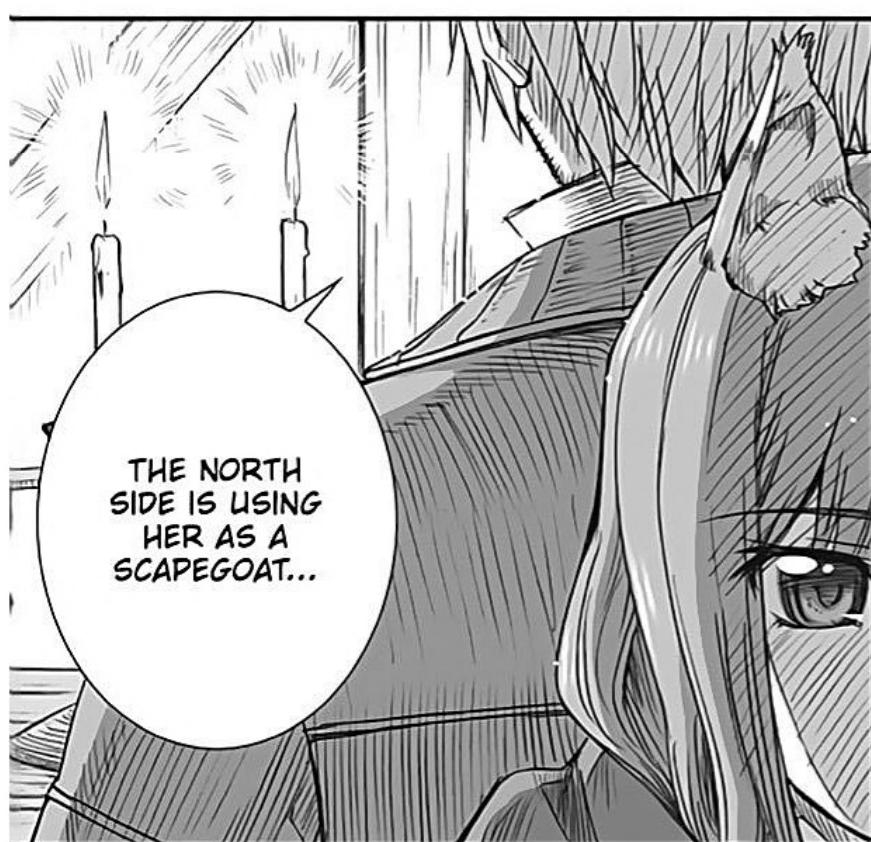
I'LL
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.



GYUMU
(SHOVE)

GISHI
(CREAK)











...YOUR
FACE SAYS
YOU COULD
GO OFF ON
YOUR OWN
AT ANY
MOMENT.

YOU SPEAK
OF SUCH
WEAKNESS,
AND YET...

BUT IF I LOOKED AS
THOUGH I COULDN'T
CONTINUE ON ALONE,
YOU'D RAIL AT ME
WITHOUT MERCY,
WOULD YOU NOT?

.....

I'D...JUST AS
SOON AVOID
THAT...

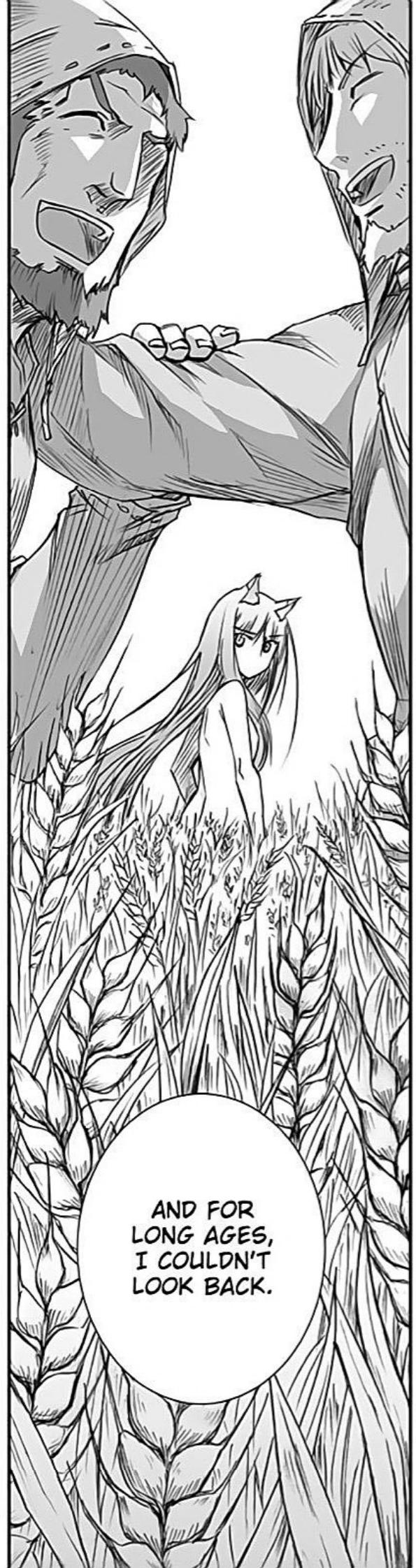
NATU-
RALLY, I
WOULD!

I'D RAIL
AT YOU,
TOY WITH
YOU, AND
TEASE
YOU!



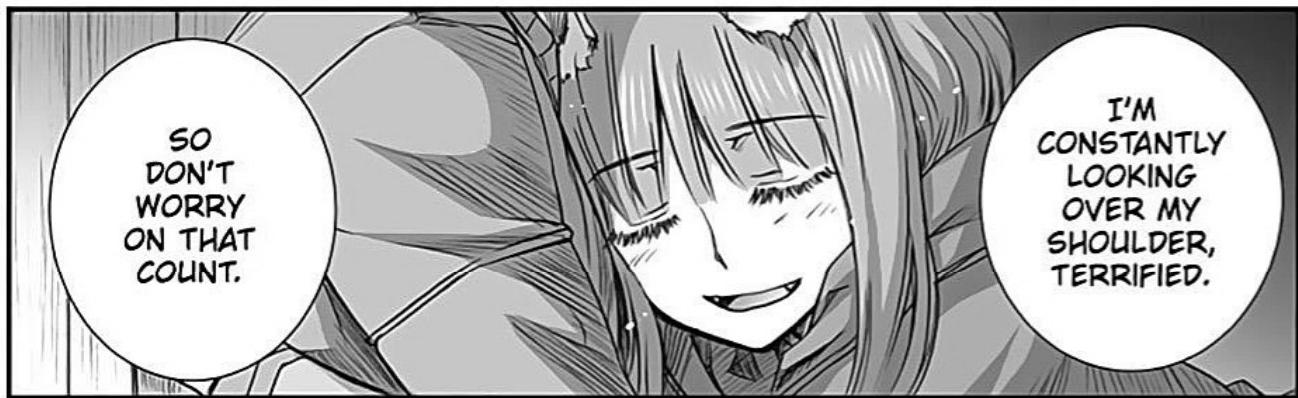


AND I
AM TIRED
OF IT.



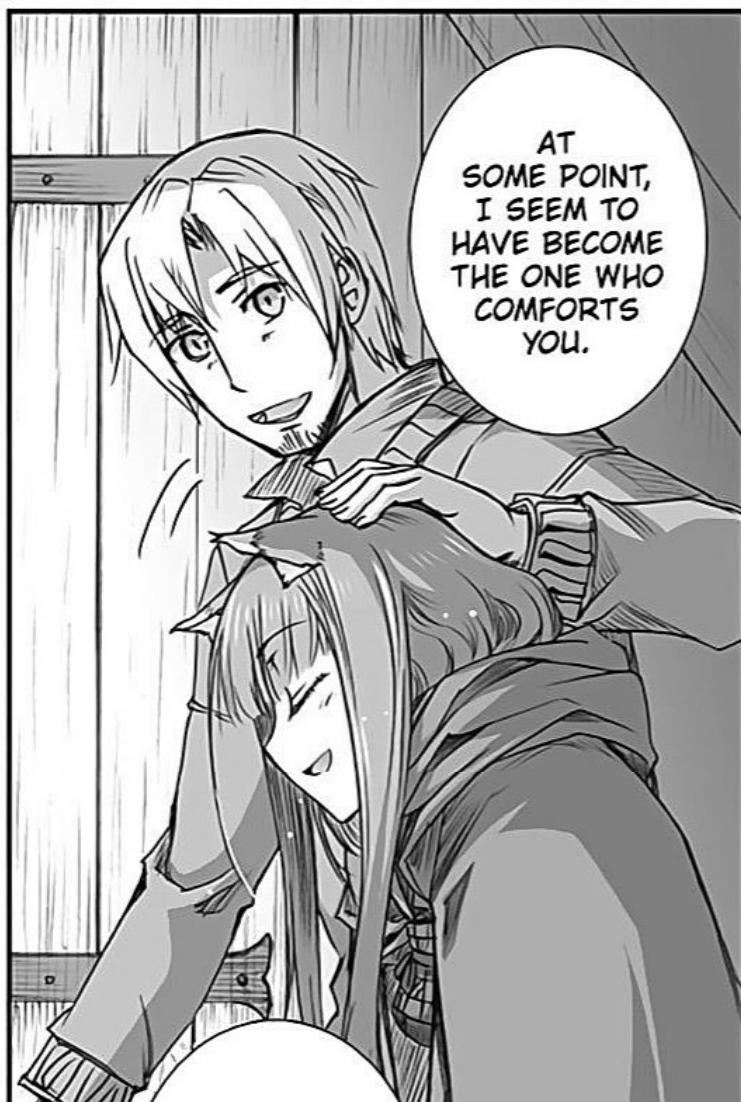
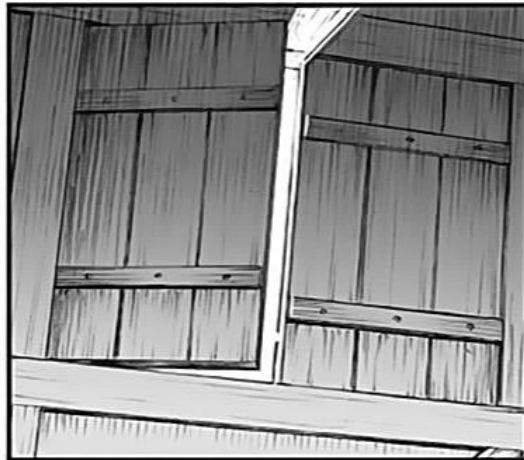
WHEN
PEOPLE
ARE
STRONG,
THEY DO
NOT LOOK
BACK.

GYLUU
(HUG)





.....STILL,
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
STRANGE?

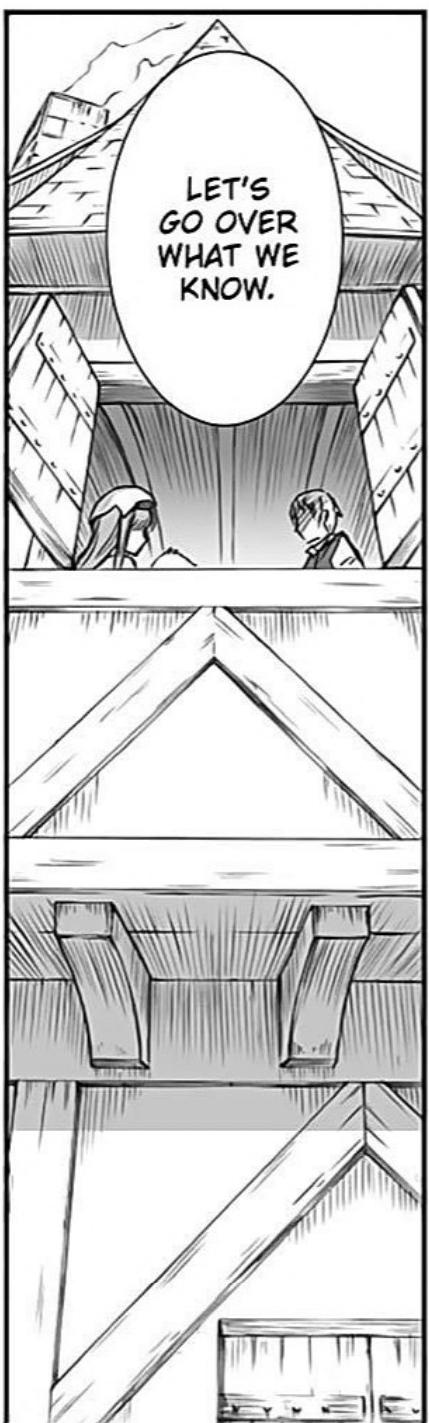
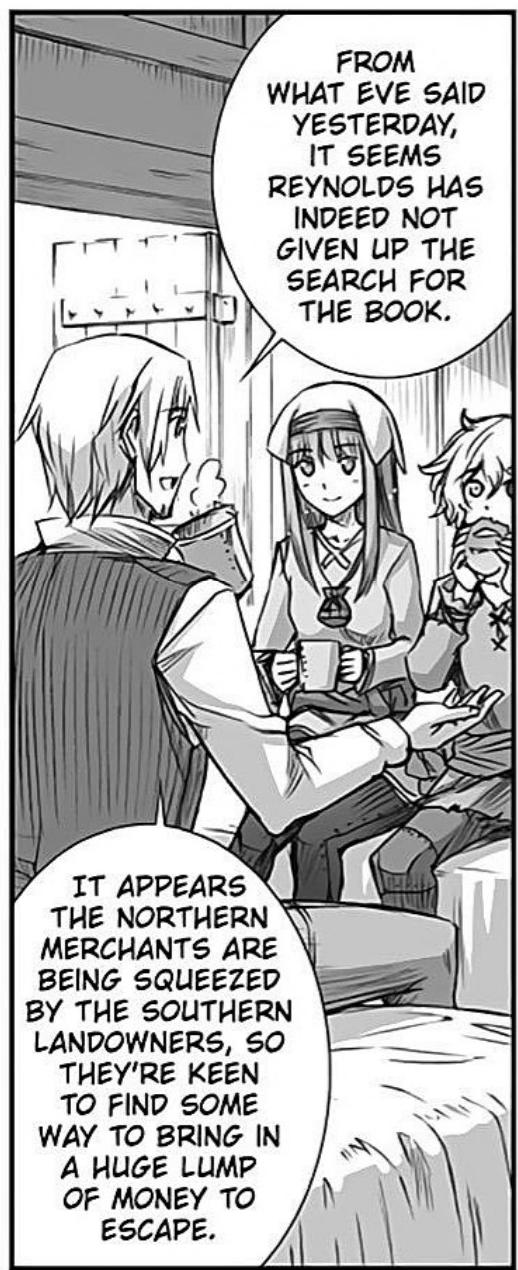






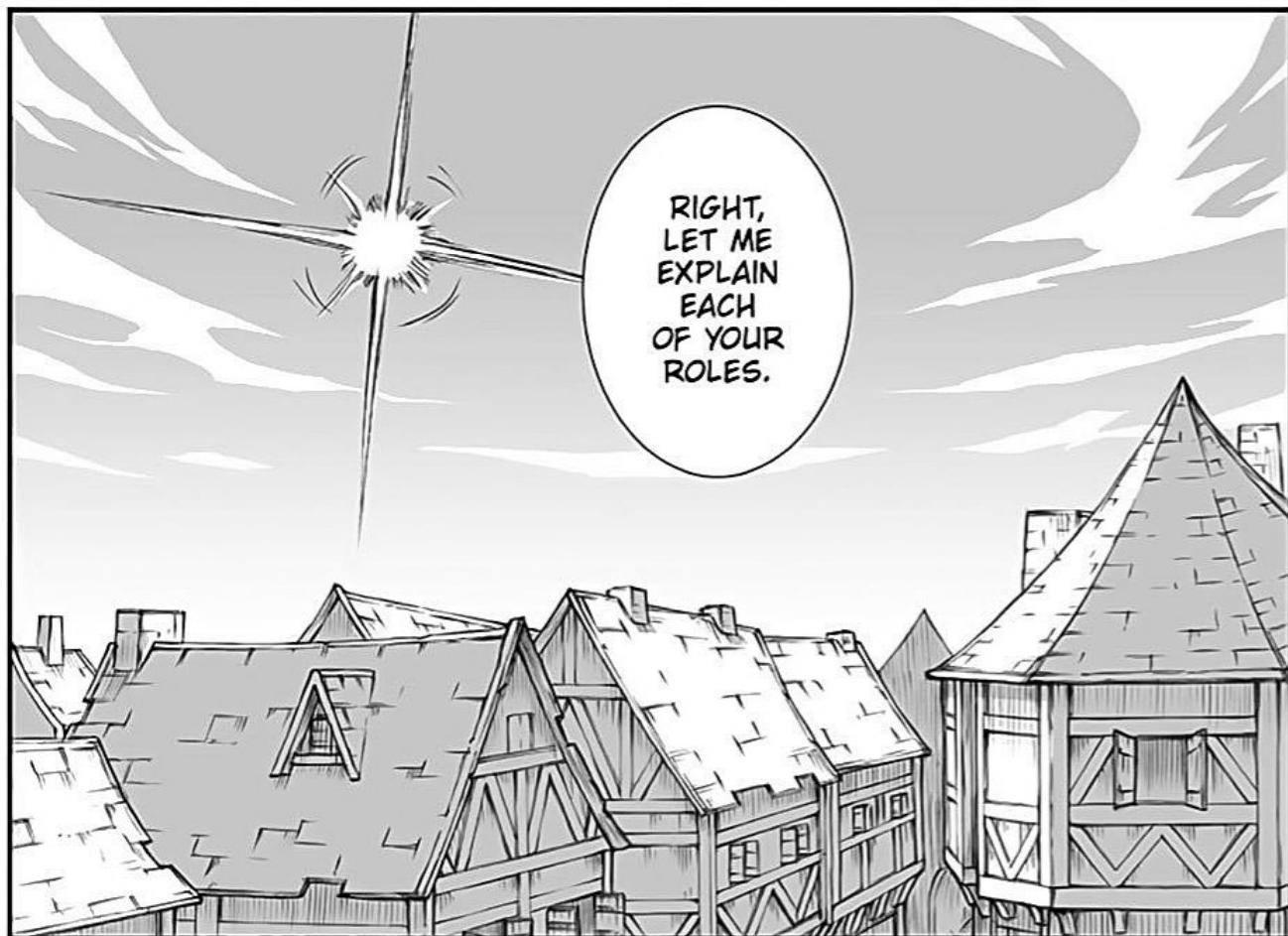
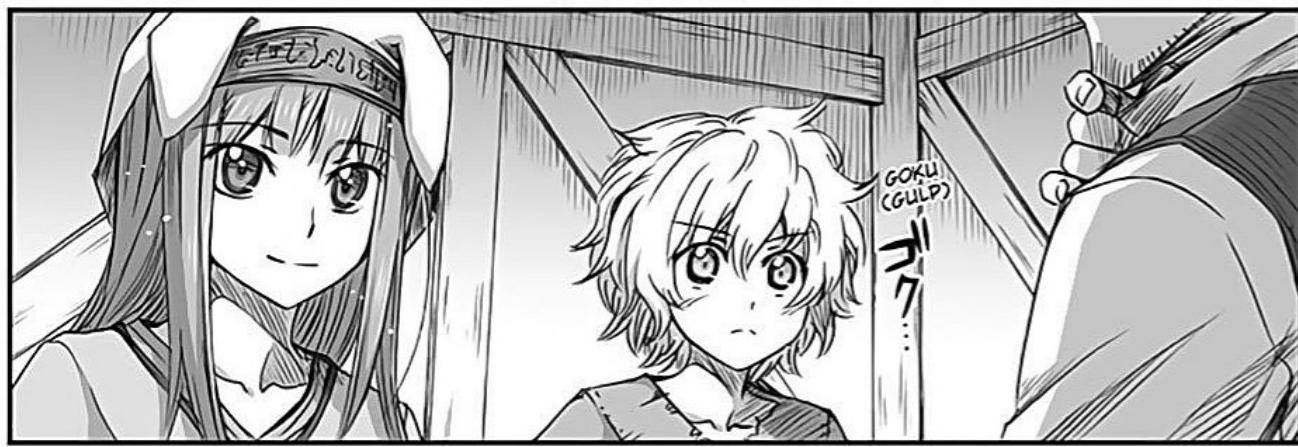
THAT IT
WILL BE A
BIT LONGER
BEFORE THE
BOY COL
RETURNS
FROM
SHOPPING.

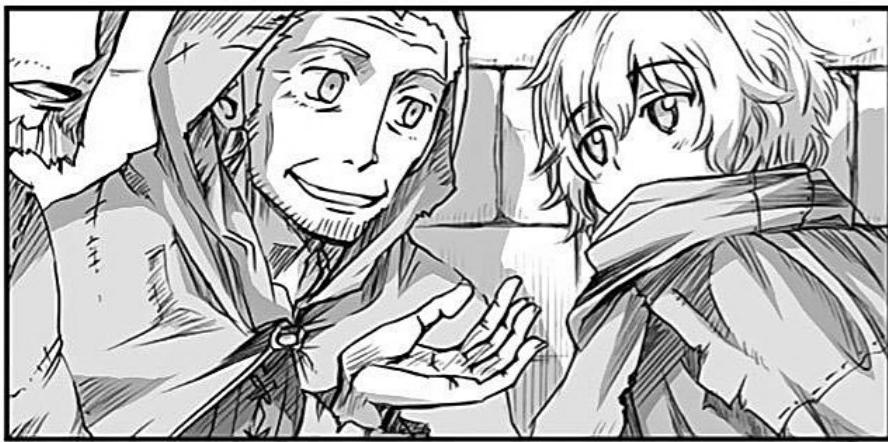








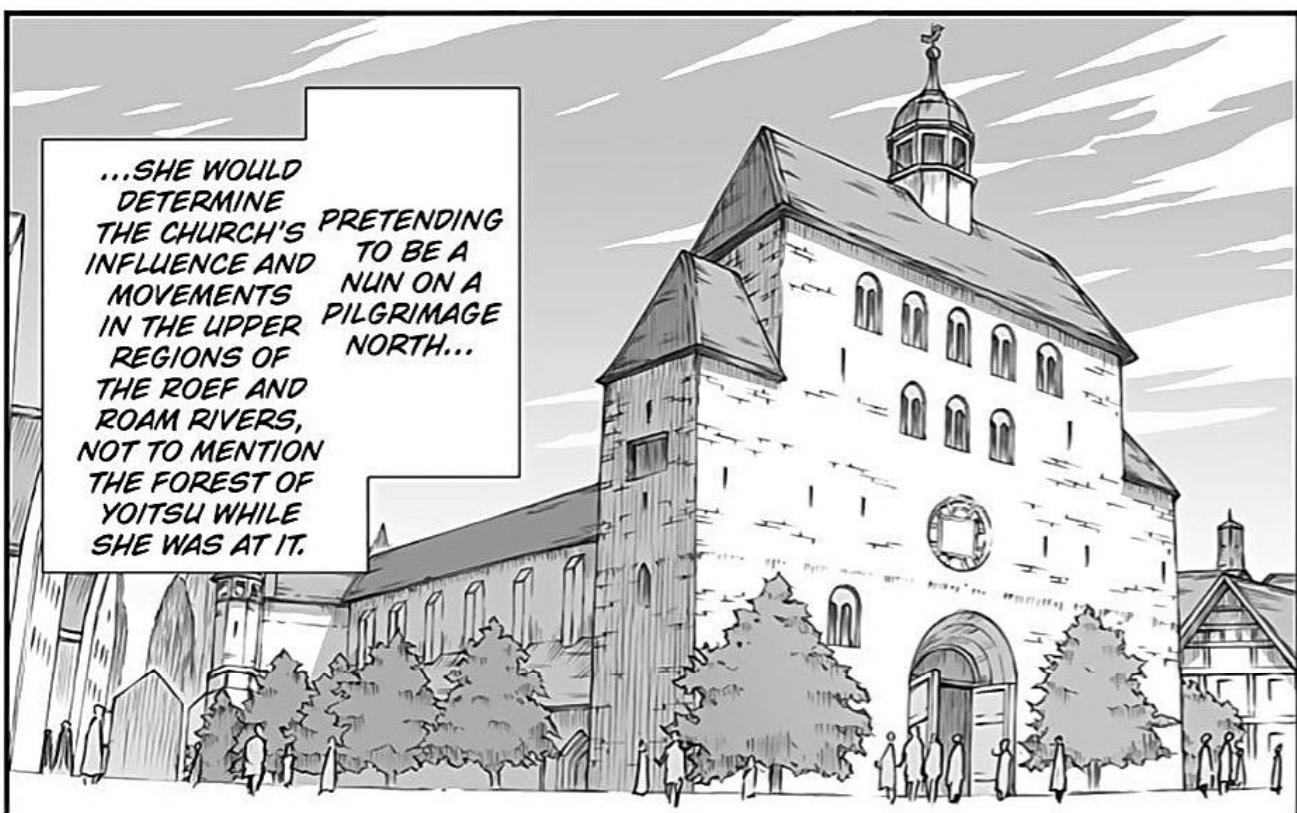
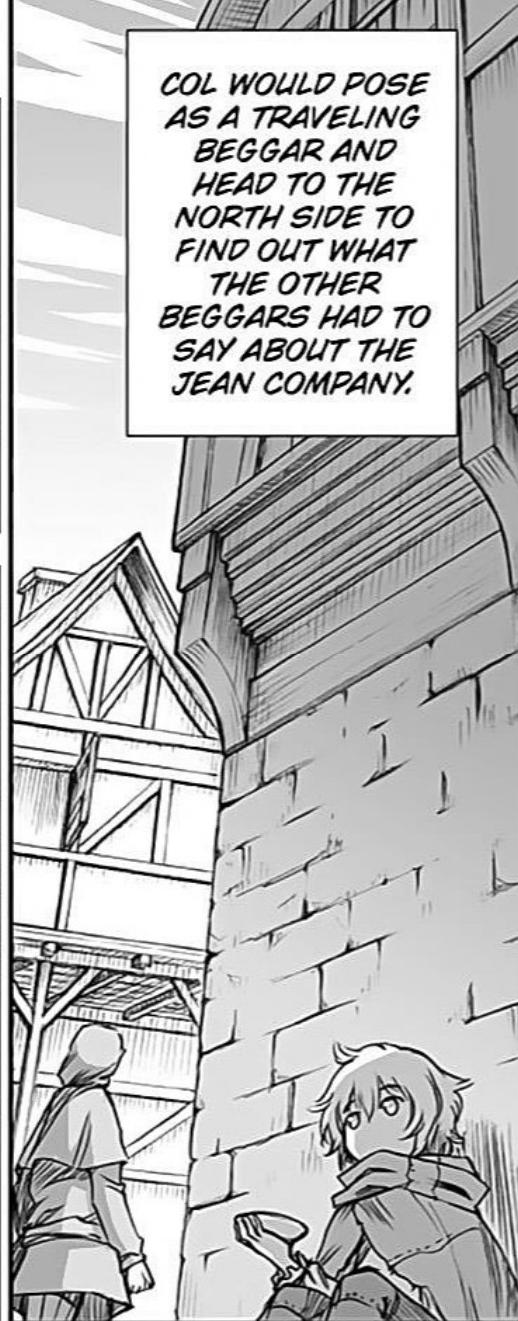




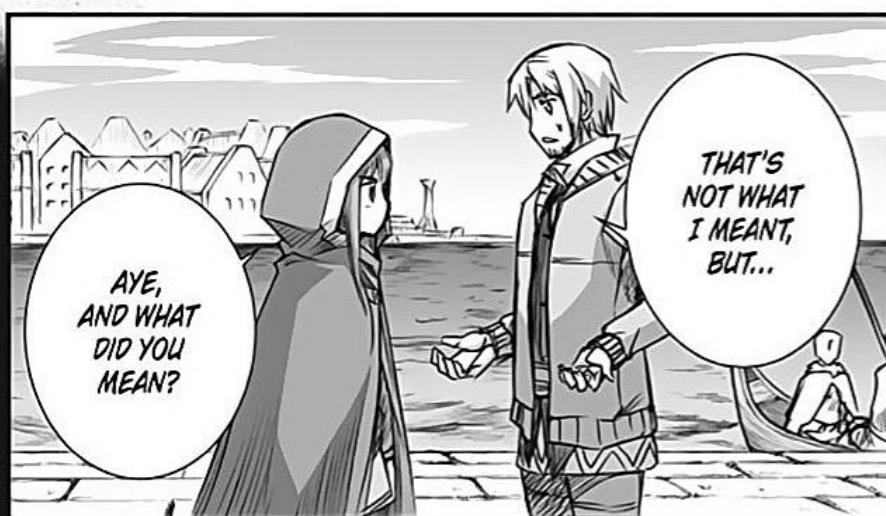
COL WOULD POSE AS A TRAVELING BEGGAR AND HEAD TO THE NORTH SIDE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE OTHER BEGGARS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE JEAN COMPANY.



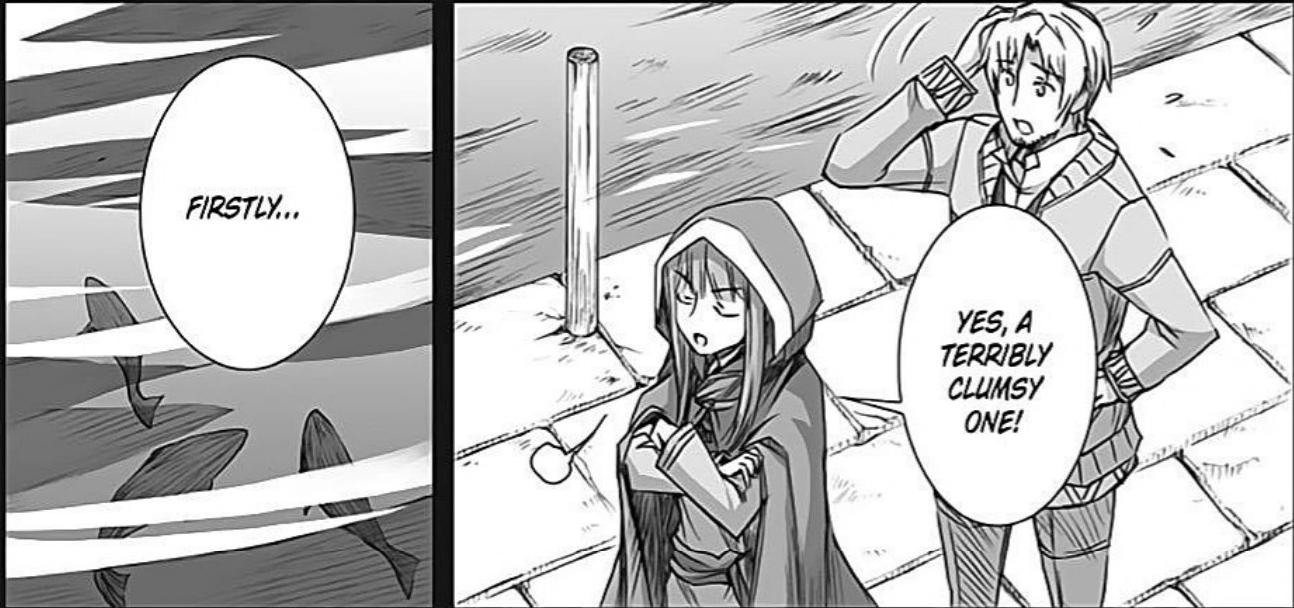
HOLY WOULD MAKE FOR THE SOUTH-SIDE CHURCH.



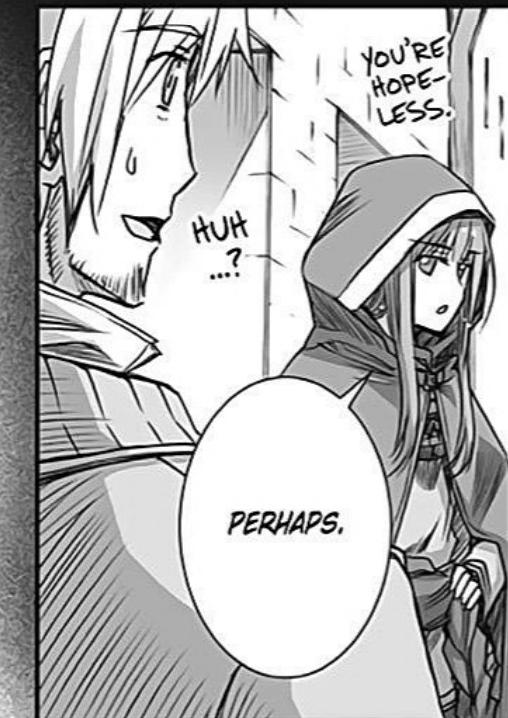
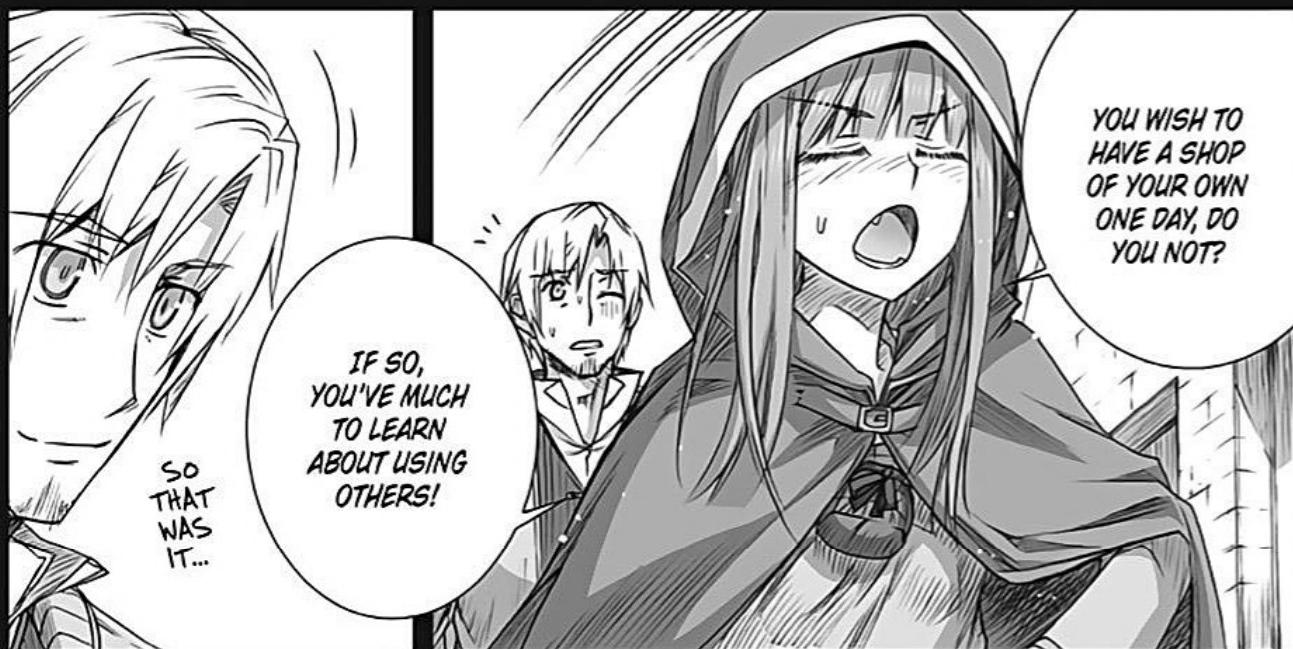
...SHE WOULD DETERMINE THE CHURCH'S PRETENDING INFLUENCE AND MOVEMENTS TO BE A NUN ON A PILGRIMAGE IN THE UPPER REGIONS OF THE ROOF AND ROAM RIVERS, NOT TO MENTION THE FOREST OF YOITSU WHILE SHE WAS AT IT.

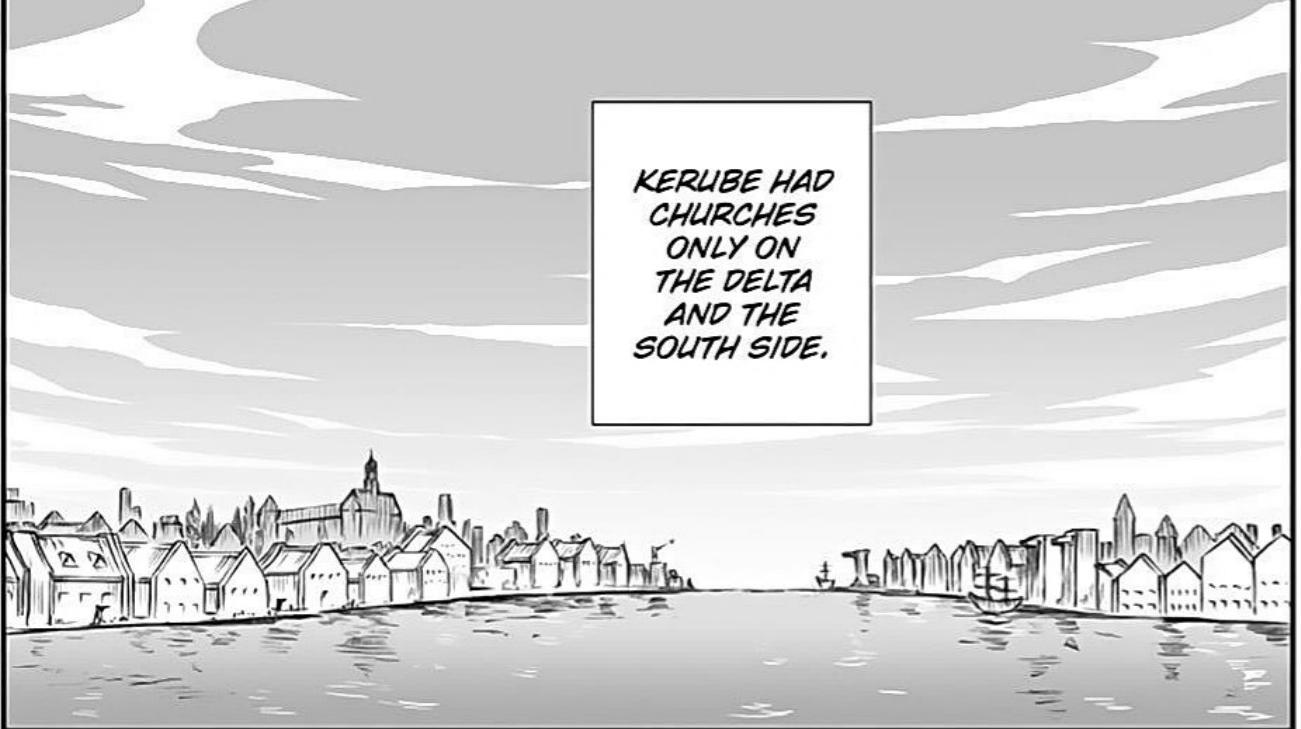




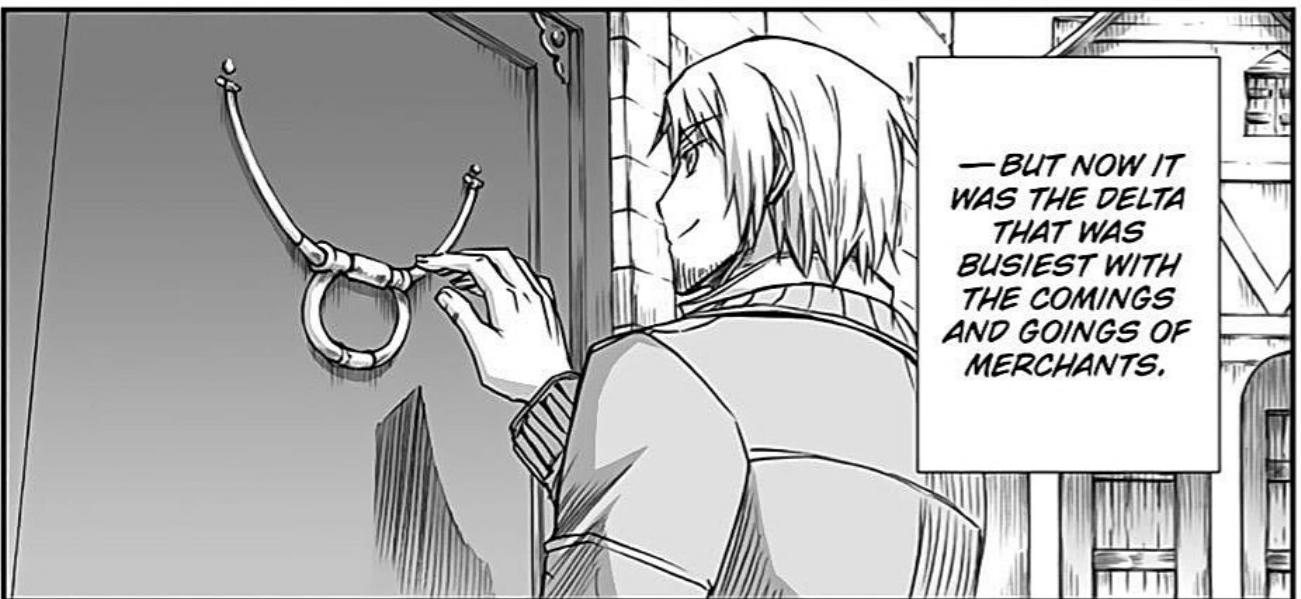
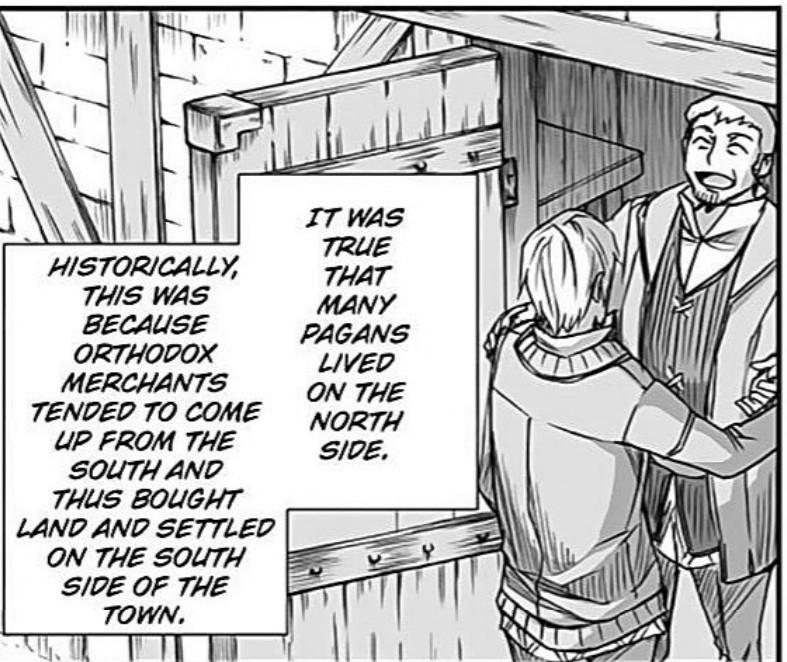


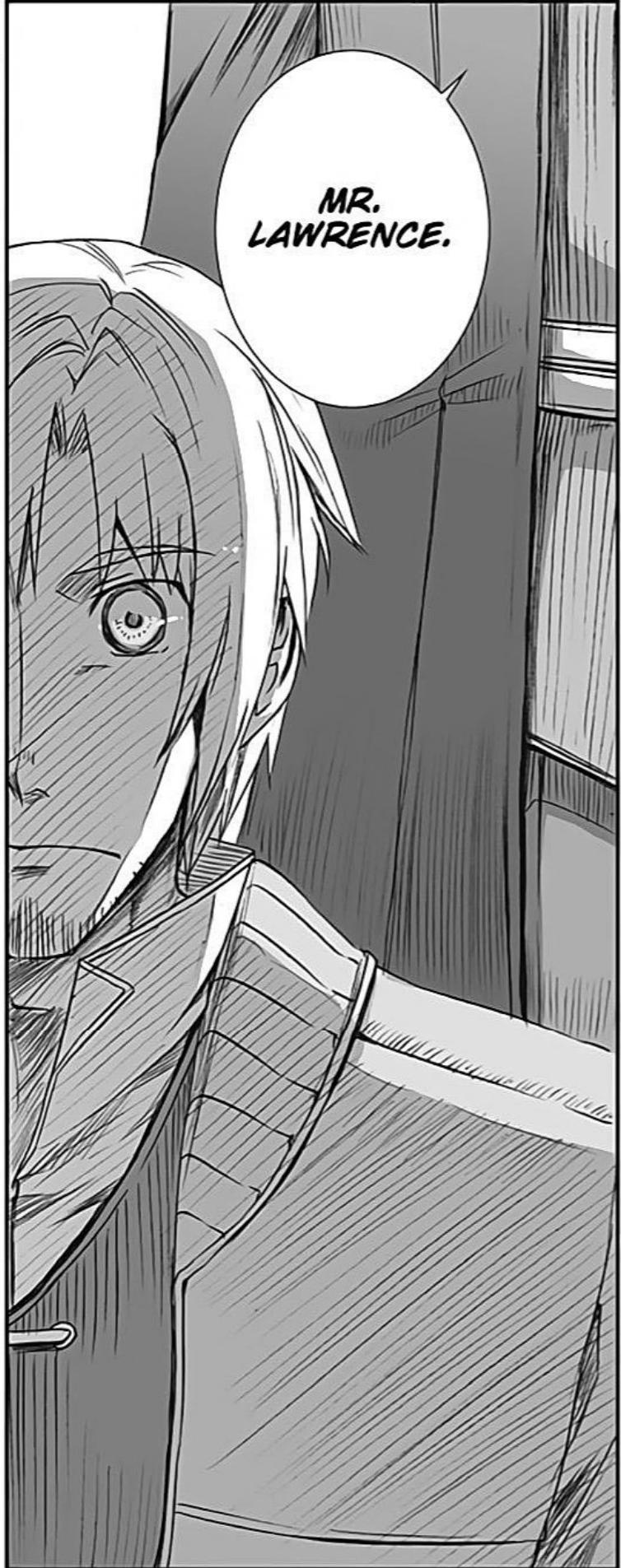




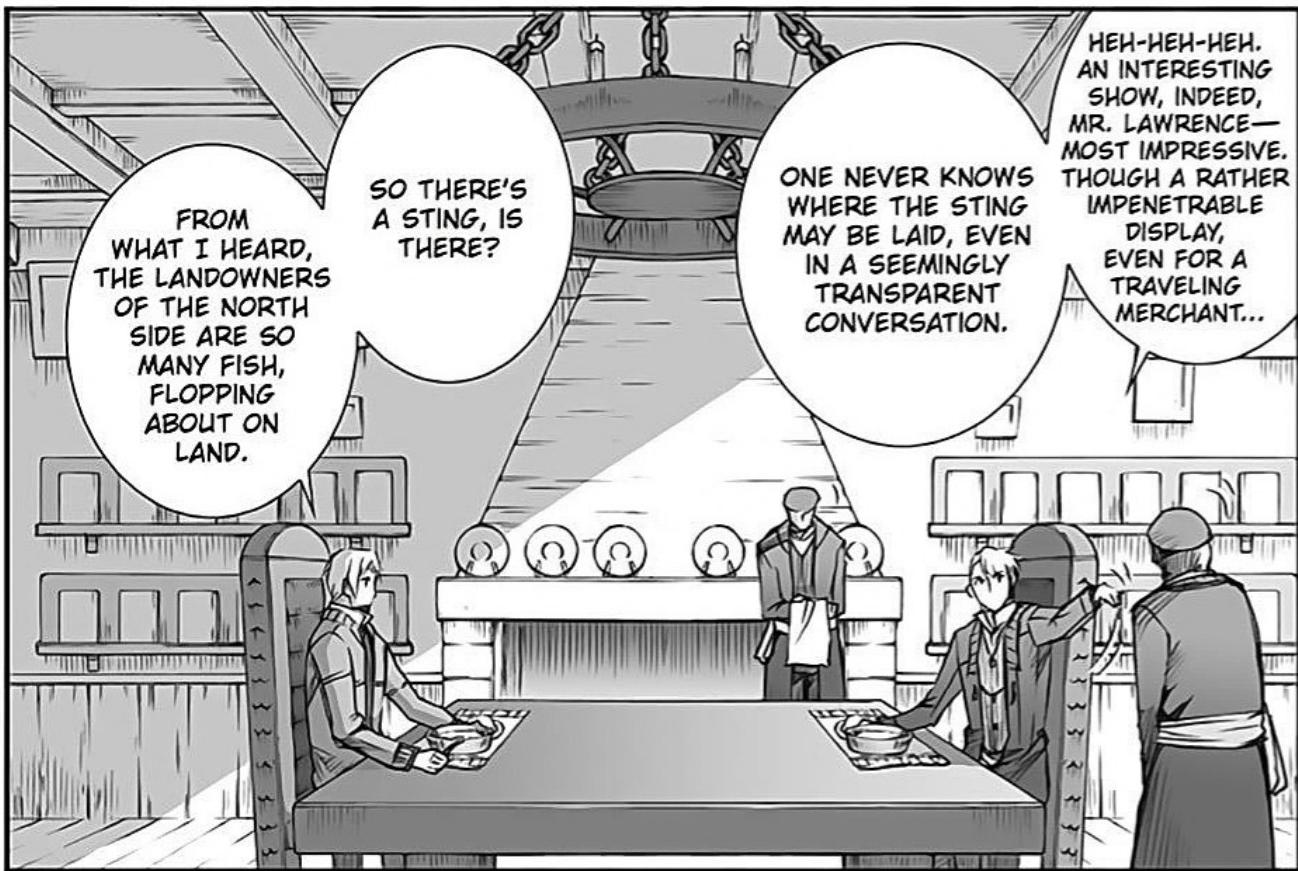
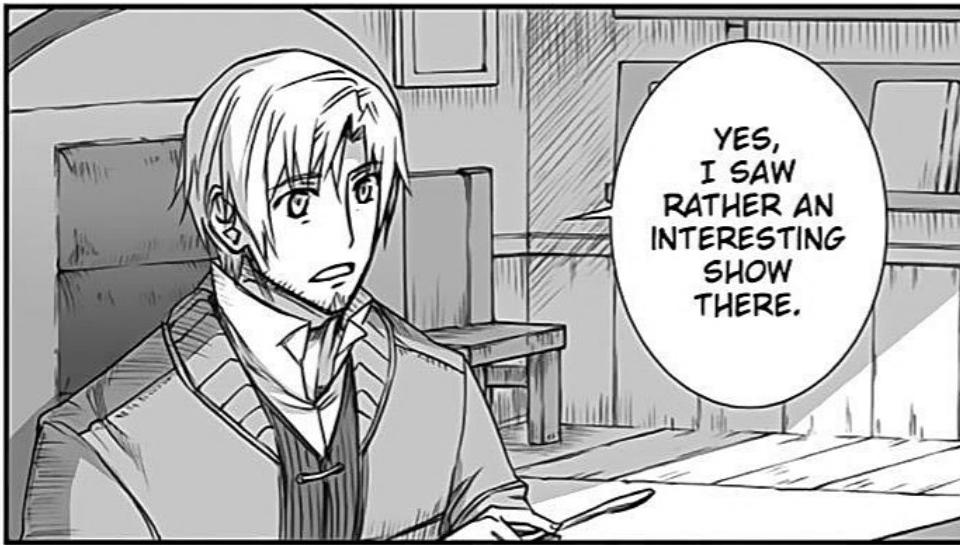


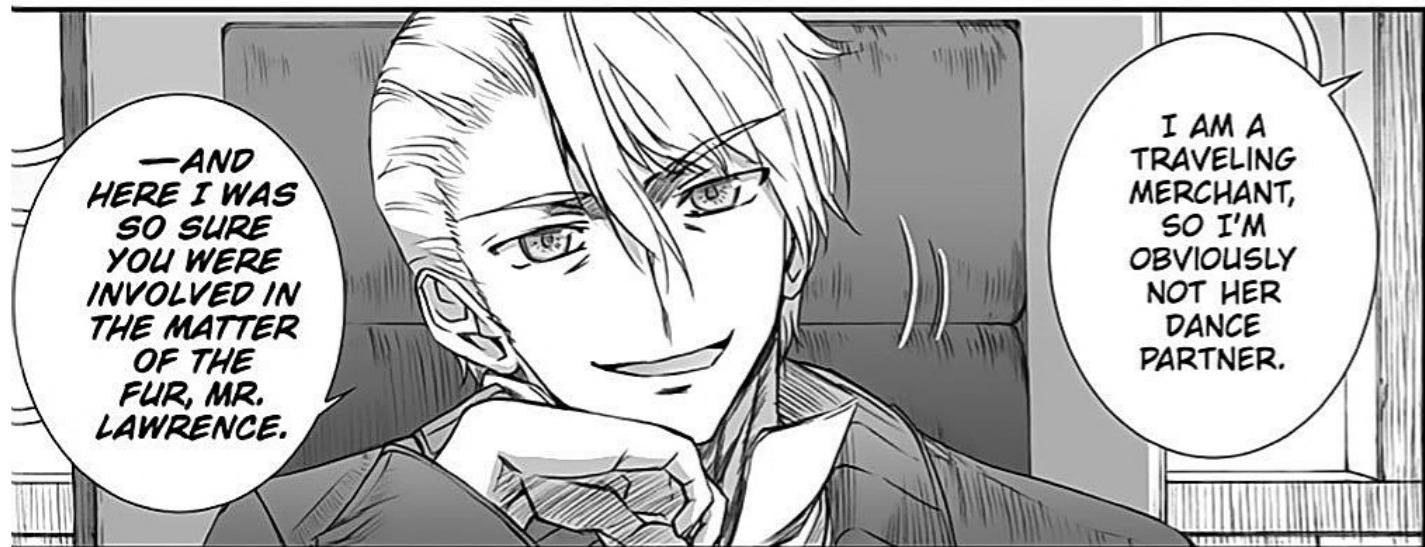
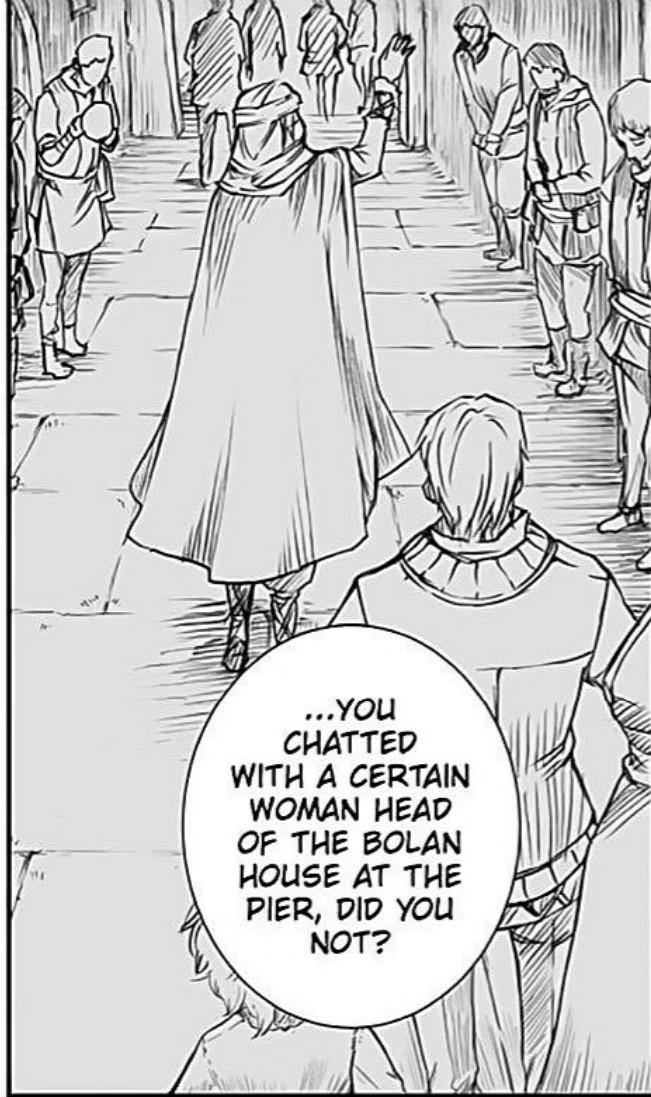
KERUBE HAD CHURCHES ONLY ON THE DELTA AND THE SOUTH SIDE.

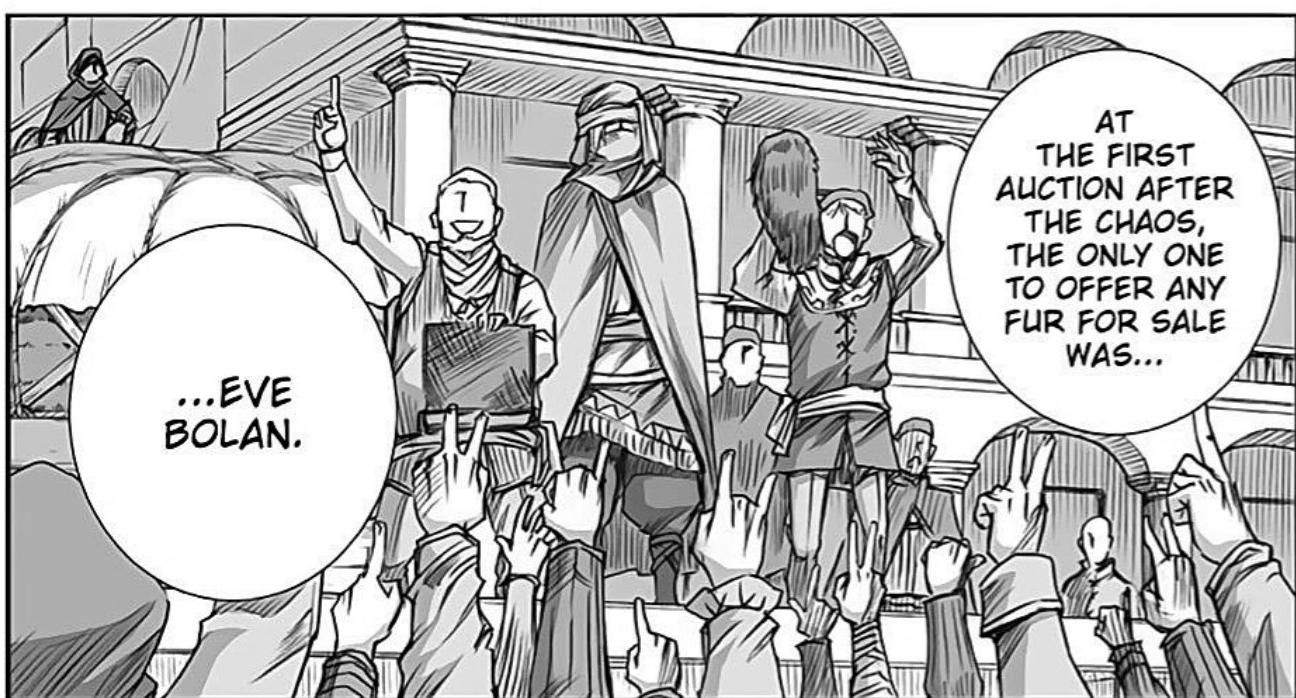
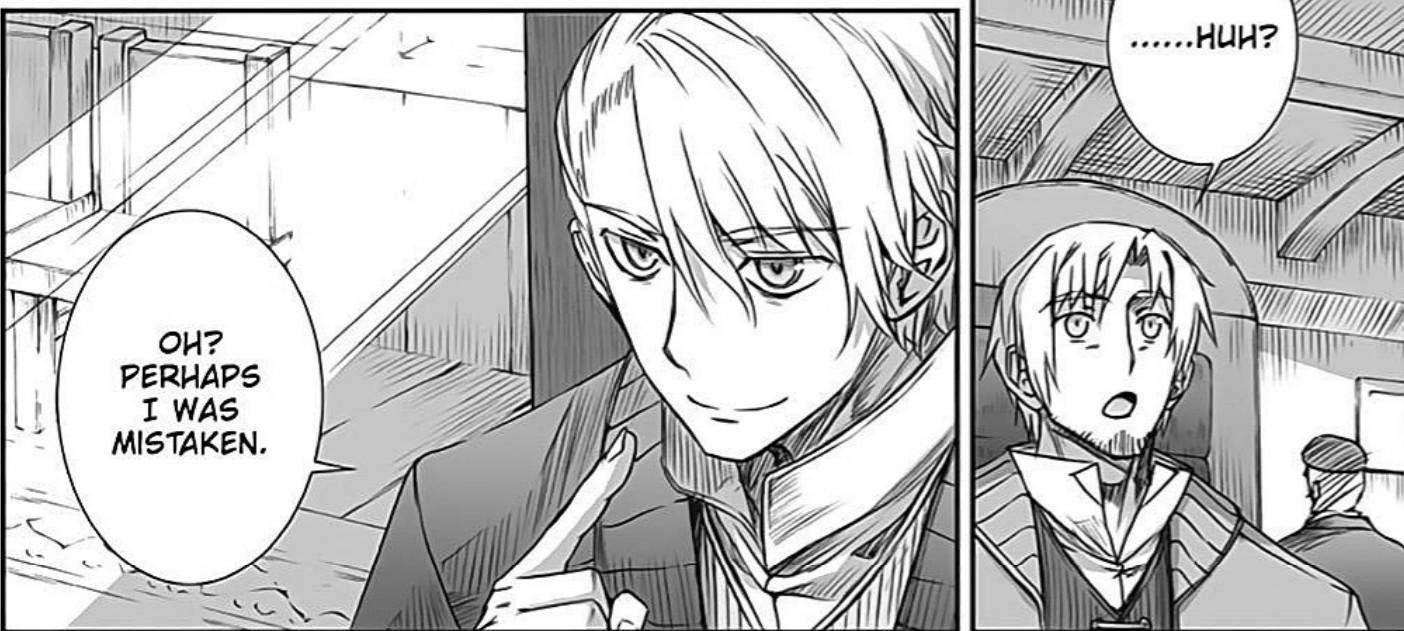






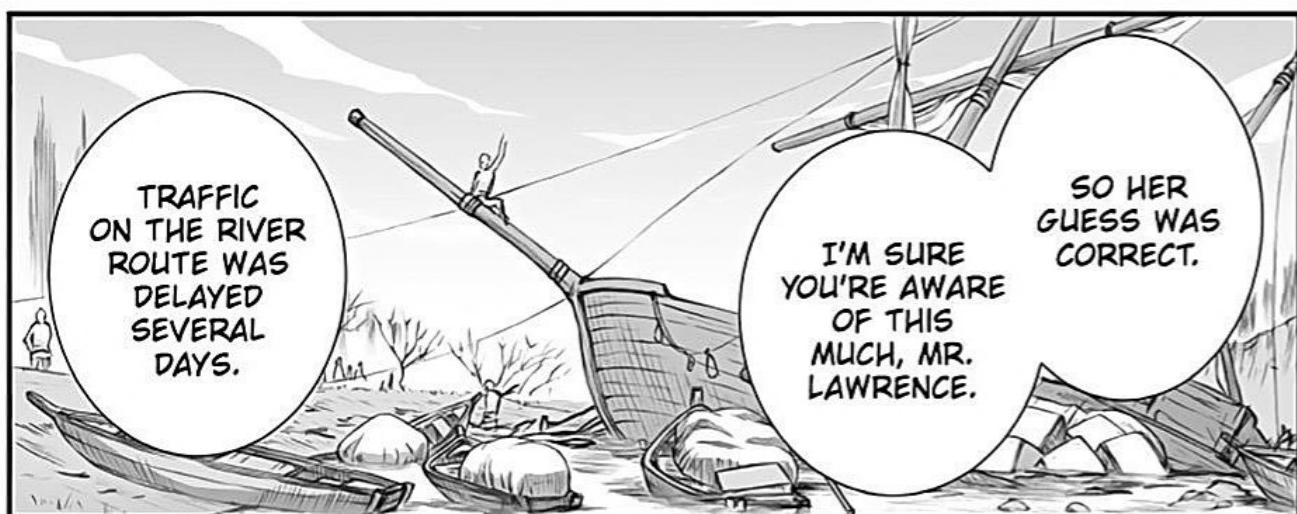
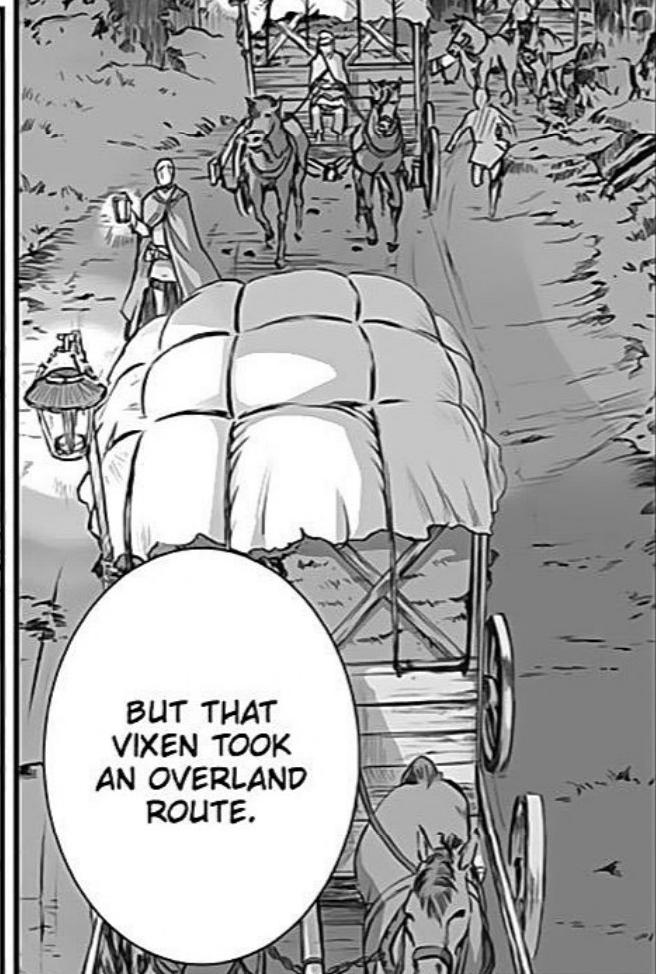
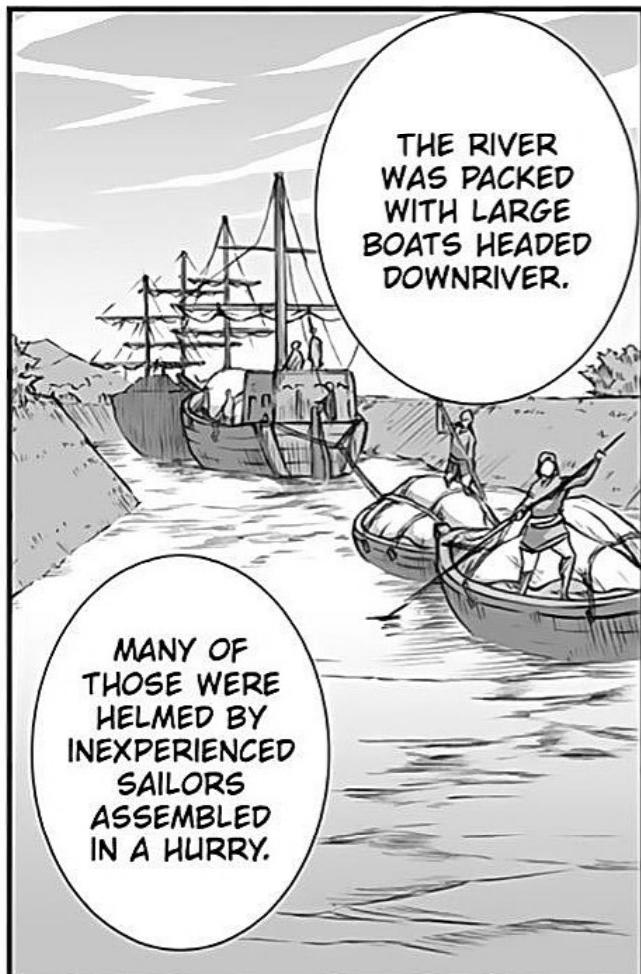


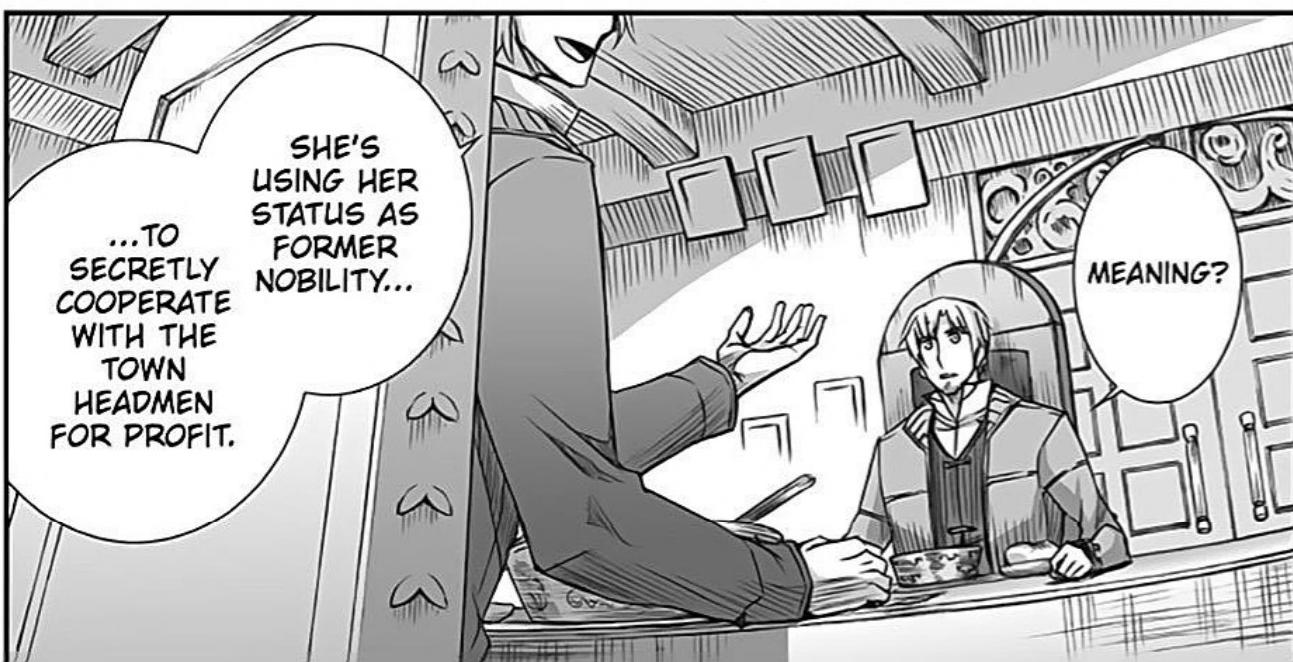
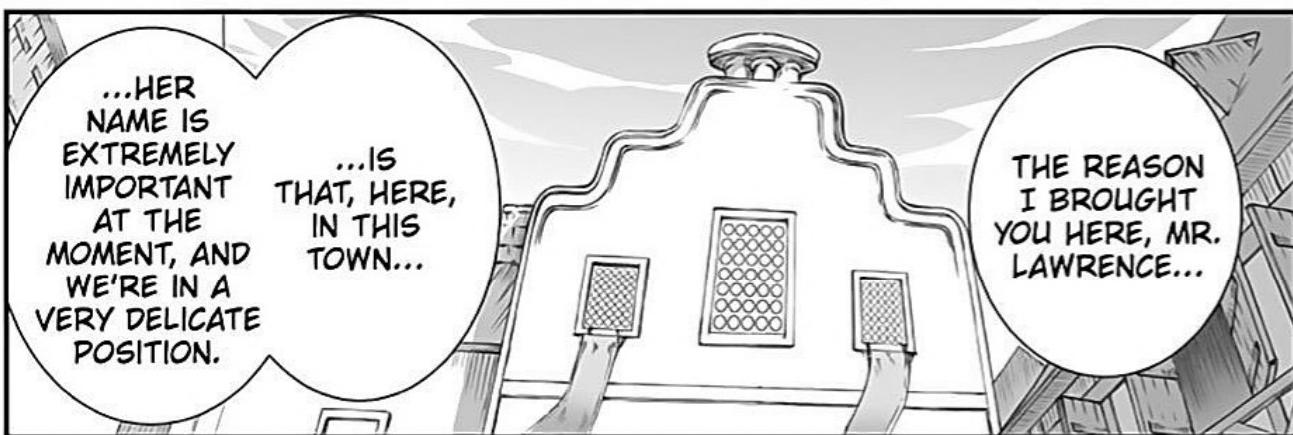


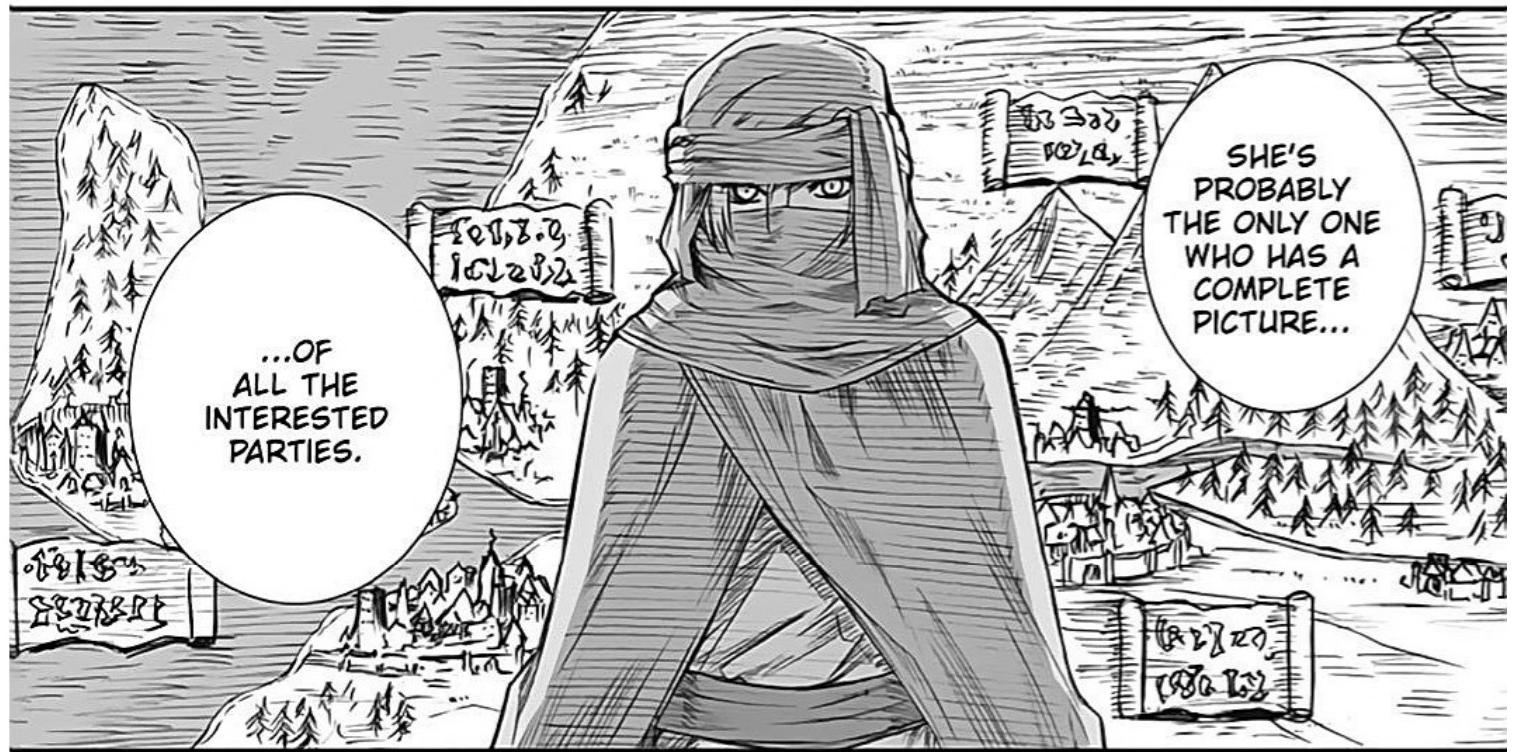




NORMALLY,
THE RIVER IS
THE FASTEST
WAY TO GET
FLRS FROM
LENO TO
THE DELTA...







.....

NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT
THE IMPACT
OF MAKING A
SINGLE MISTAKE
IN THEIR
DEALINGS
WITH HER
MIGHT BE.



...I MUST
WONDER
AT WHAT
HISTORY
LED YOU
TO DO
BUSINESS
WITH HER.



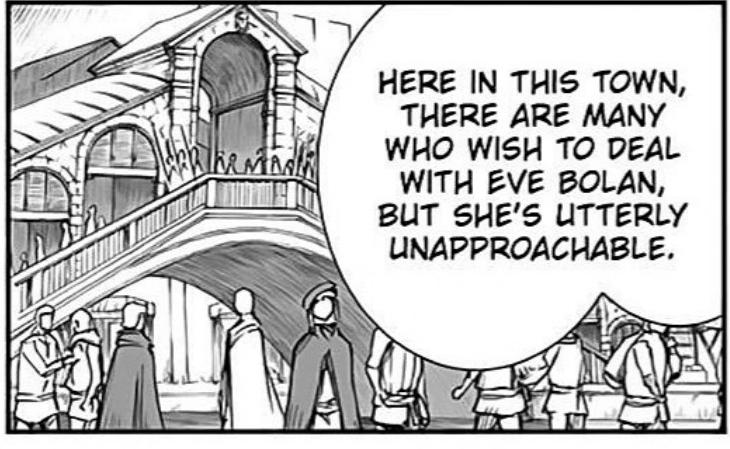
STILL
.....



I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE HOPING
TO USE MISS
EVE'S CONTACTS
TO DISCOVER
PROFITABLE
INFORMATION?



I DID NOTHING.
SHE APPROACHED
ME.



HERE IN THIS TOWN,
THERE ARE MANY
WHO WISH TO DEAL
WITH EVE BOLAN,
BUT SHE'S UTTERLY
UNAPPROACHABLE.



I'M SURE
ANYONE WHO
CAN GET A
FAVORABLE
RESPONSE
FROM HER
WILL DO
WELL...



IT WAS
NONE OTHER
THAN EVE WHO
WAS CLASHING
WITH THE
SOUTH SIDE'S
COIN PURSE
MERCENARIES
AT THE
"SPRING OF
GOLD,"
RIGHT?



...AND
THEN WAS
UNABLE TO
PAY THEM
BACK.



SHE
INGRATIATED
HERSELF WITH
THE HEADMEN,
USED THEM,
PROFITED...

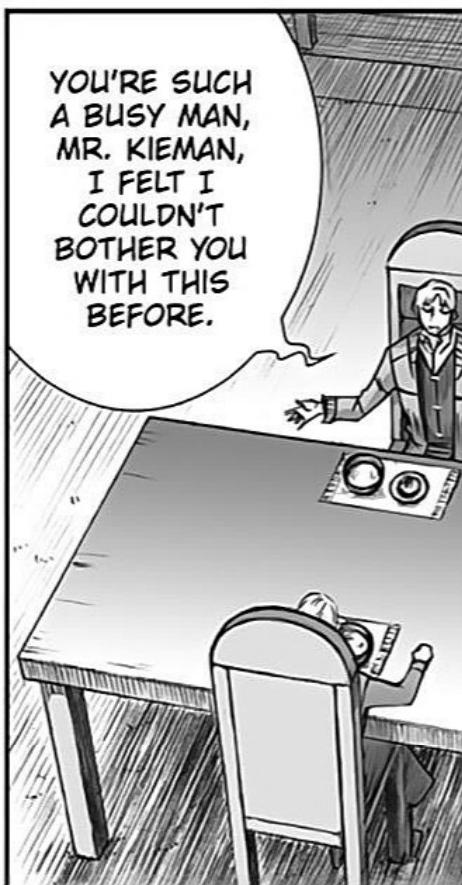


—AND ONLY
NOW AM I
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY.



OR
PERHAPS
SHE SIMPLY
DIDN'T
WANT
TO.

HOHH?

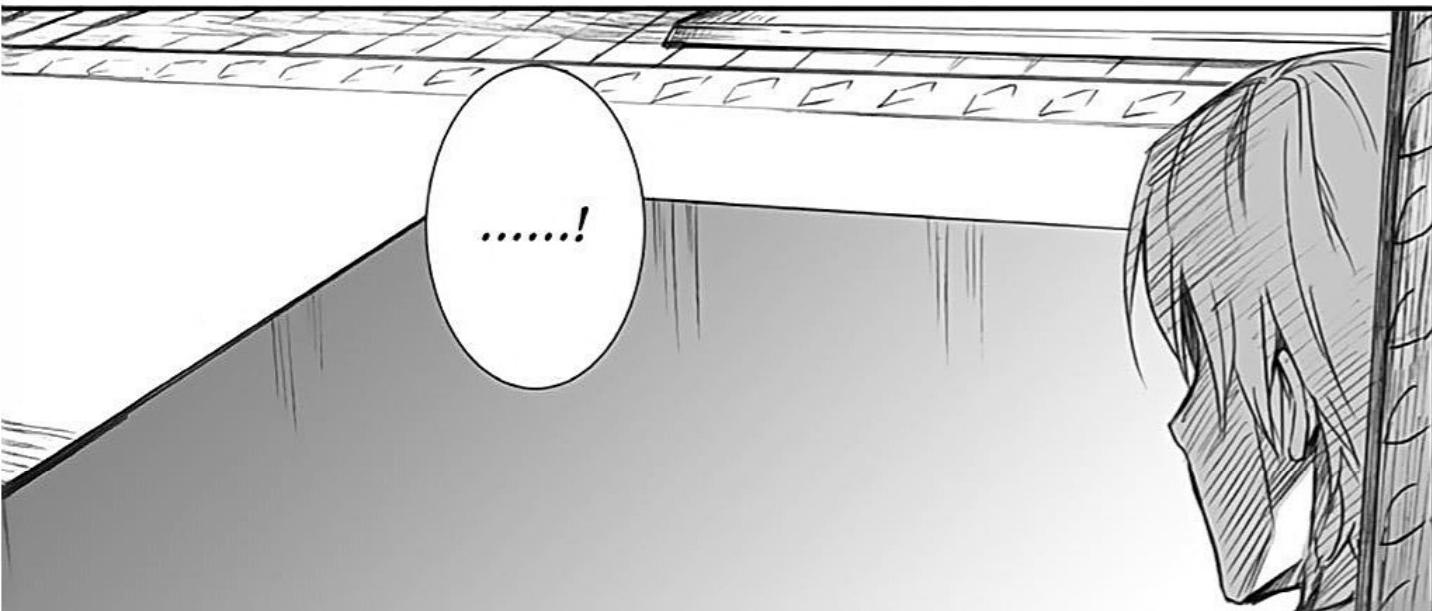






EVE
BOLAN OR
THE TRADE
GUILD—

YES?



.....!



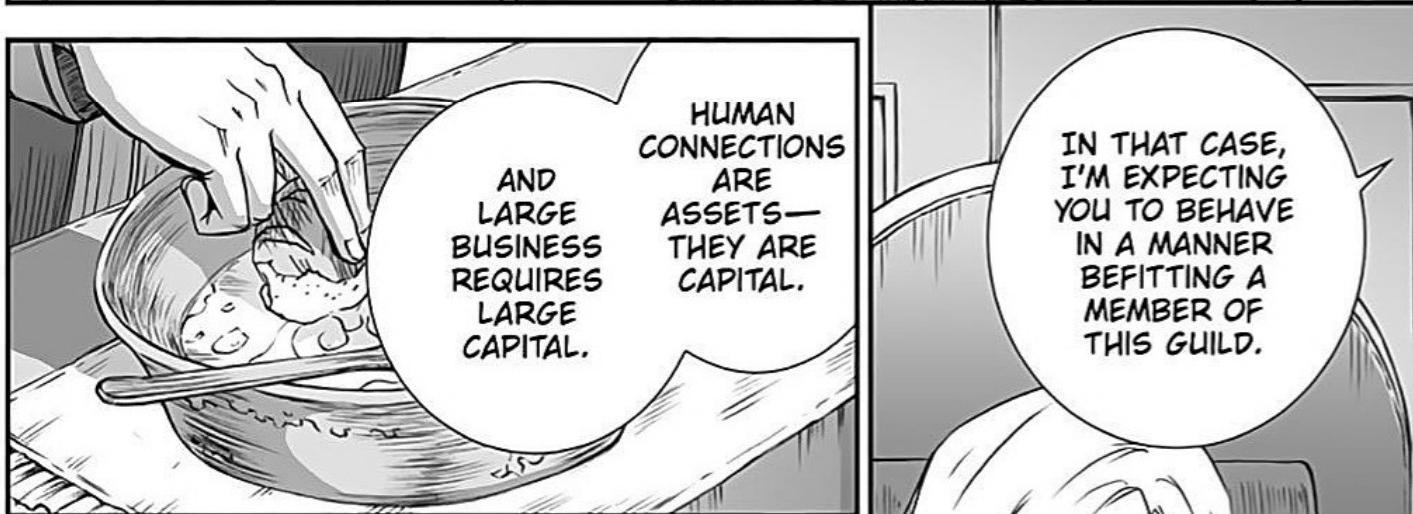
WHICH
IS YOUR
PRIORITY?

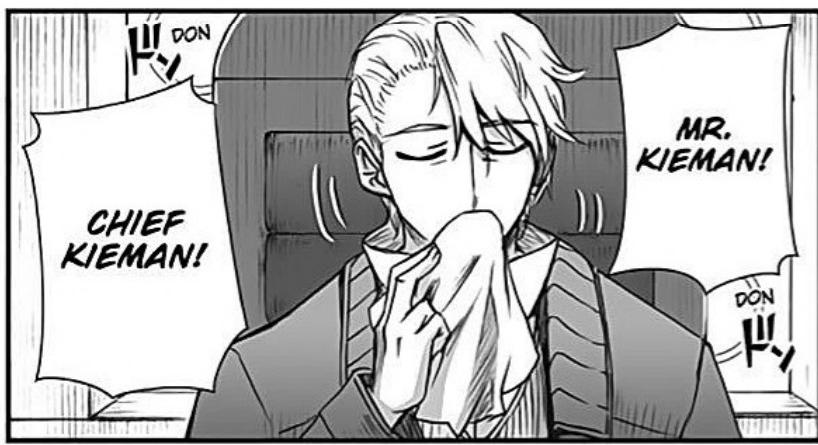
TO
GIVER



...THE
GUILD...OF
COURSE.

ER,
WELL...





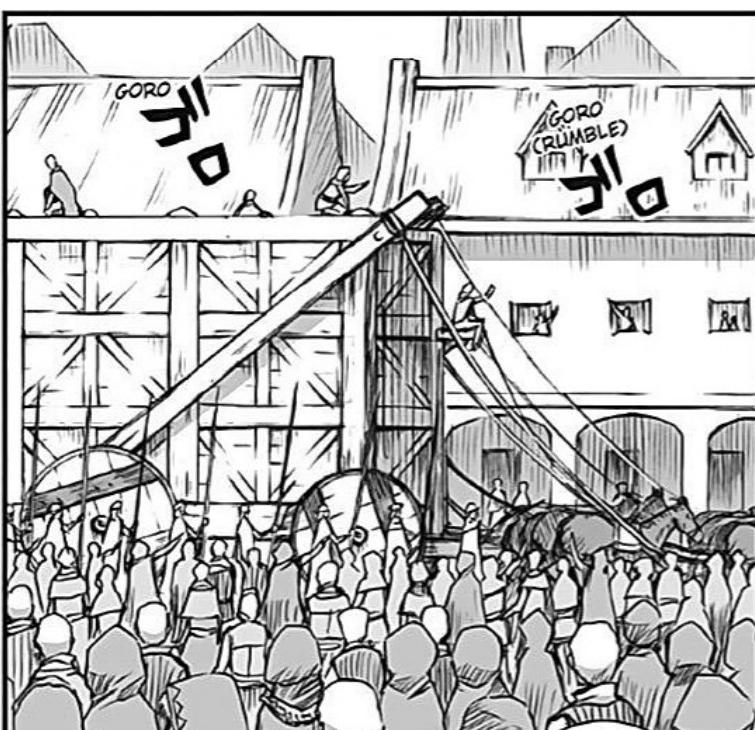
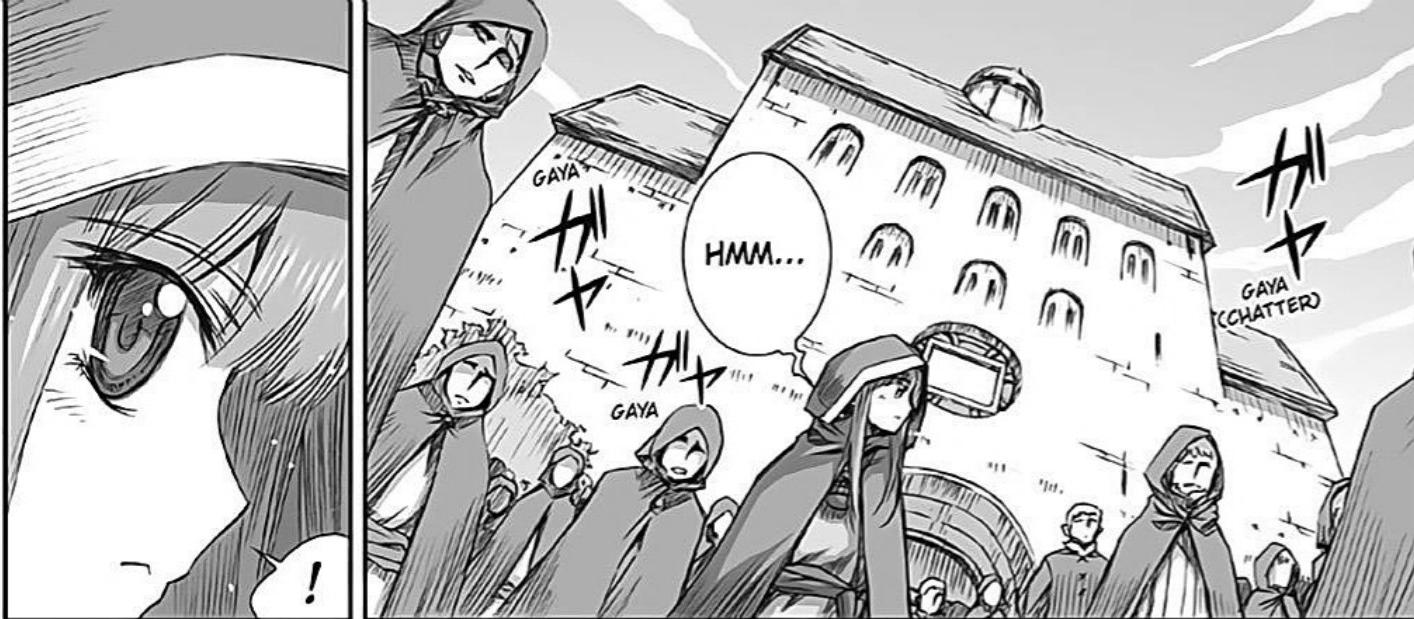


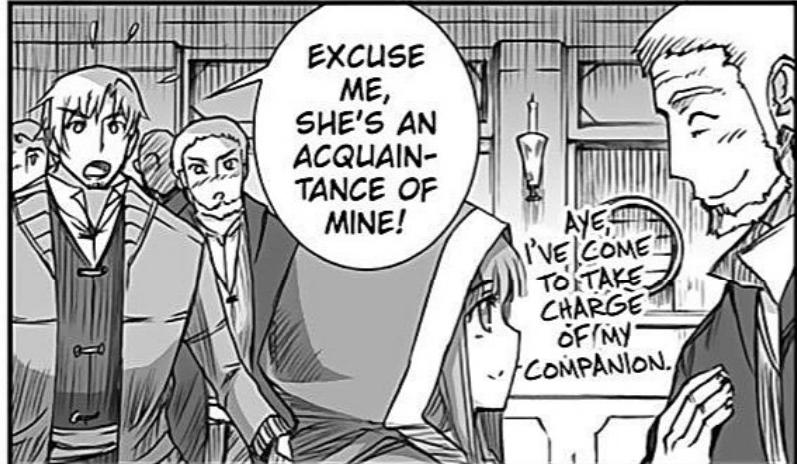
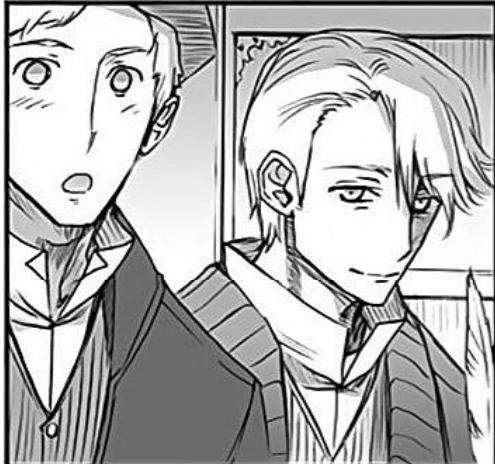
SPICE & WOLF

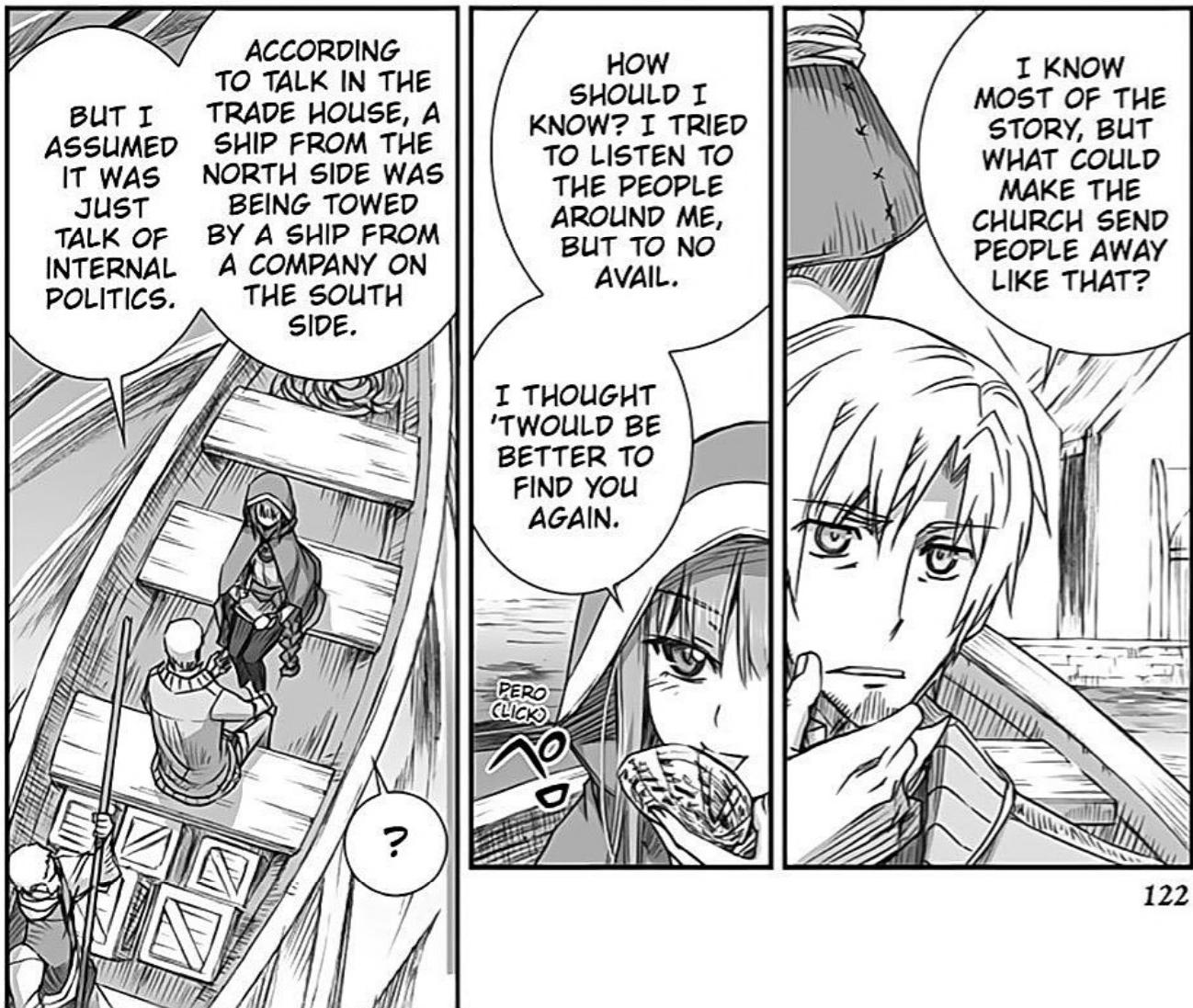


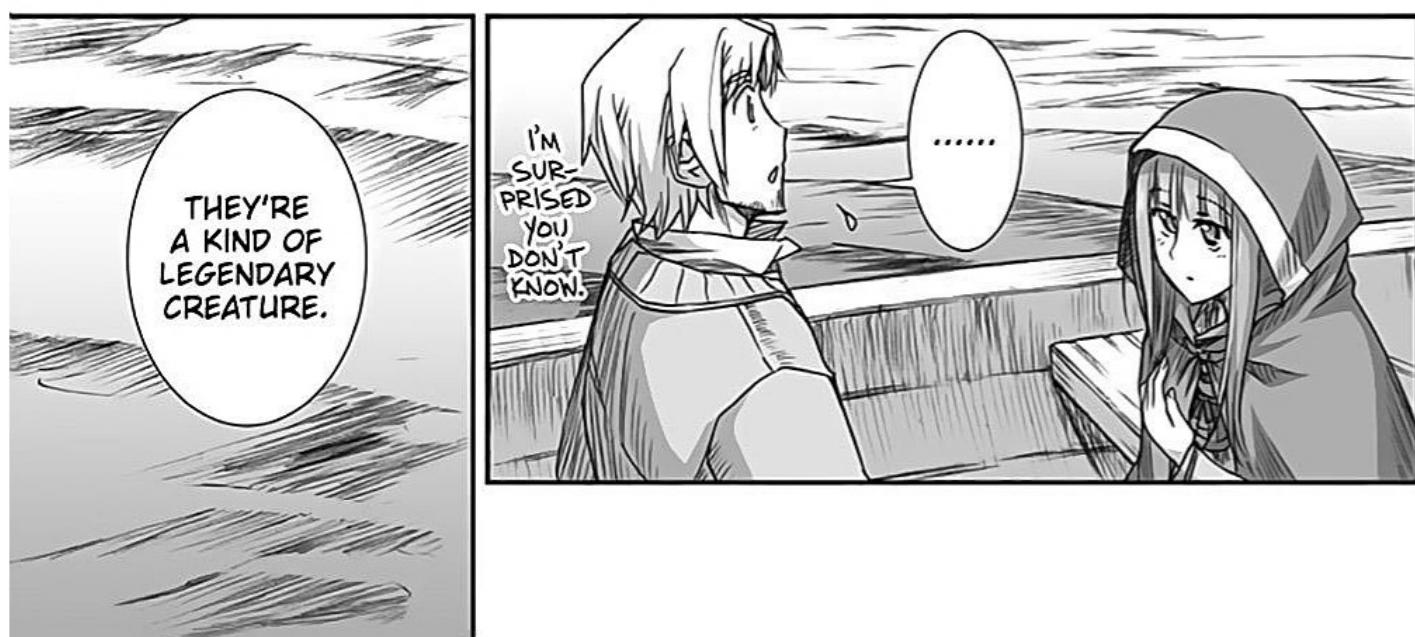
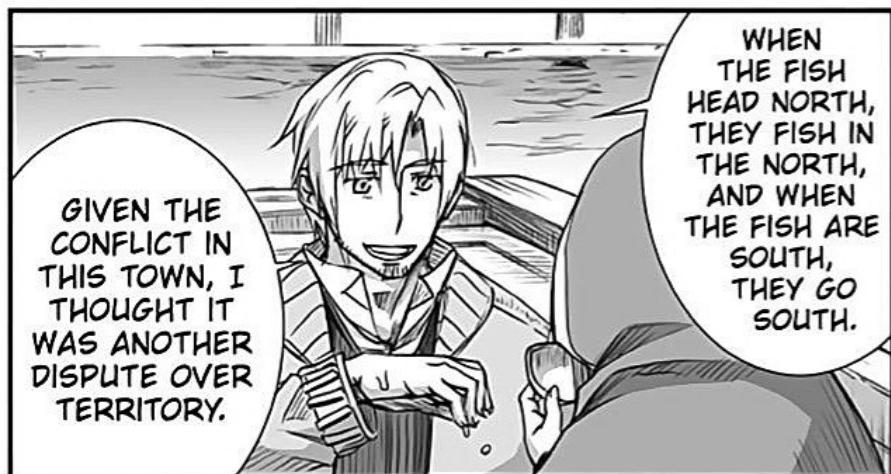


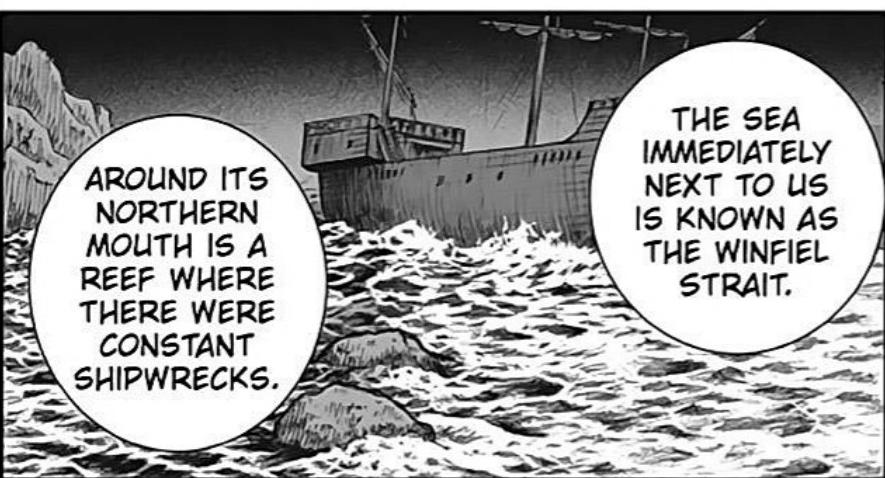


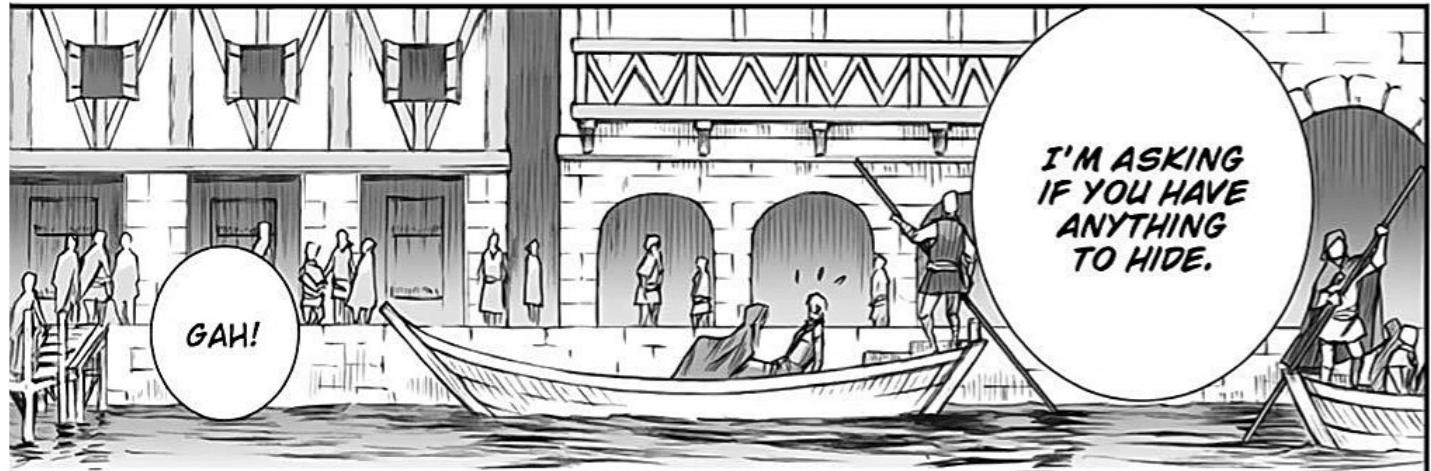
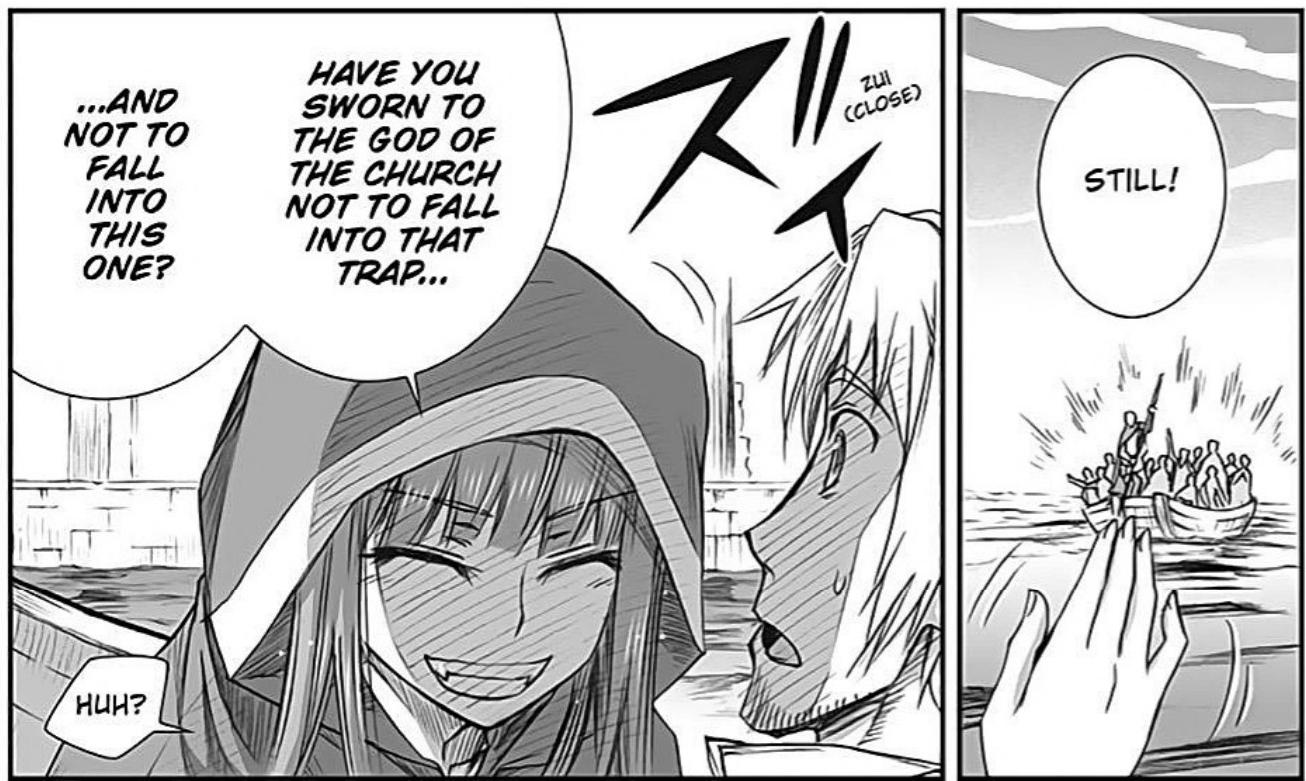














I CANNOT
HAVE YOU
LOSING
YOUR
WAY.

AYE.

EVEN IF
I WERE AT
THE TOP OF
THAT LIST, I
ASSUME YOU
WOULDN'T
ADMIT IT,
WOULD
YOU?

...WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE,
ALL I NEED
DO IS ACT
ACCORDING
TO MY OWN
PRIORITIES.

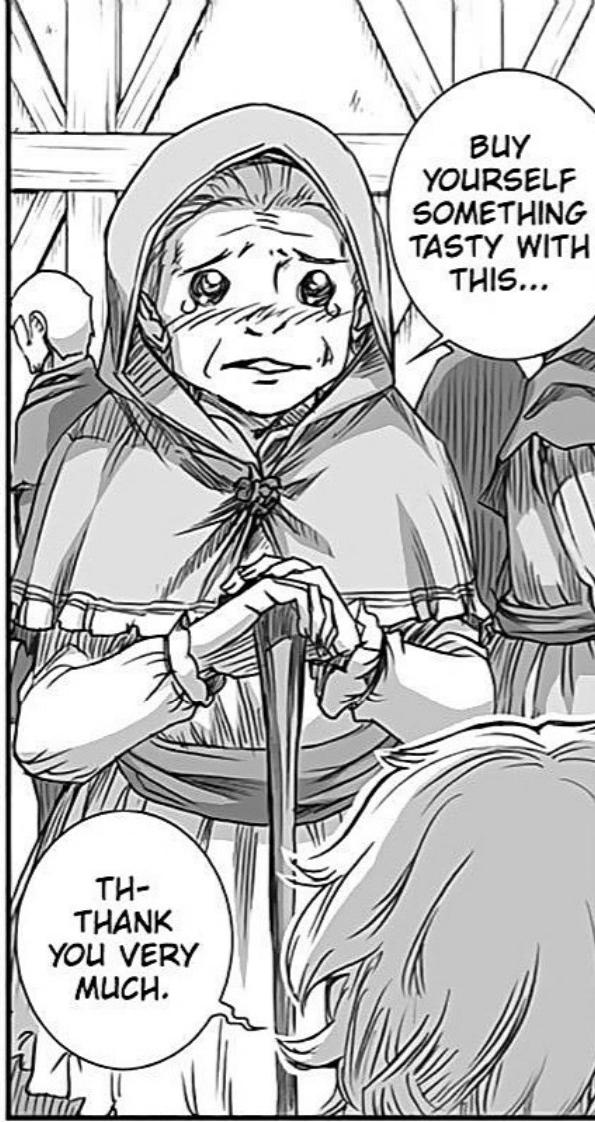
ANY-
WAY
...

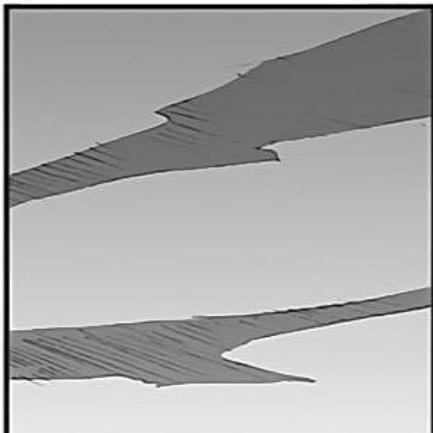
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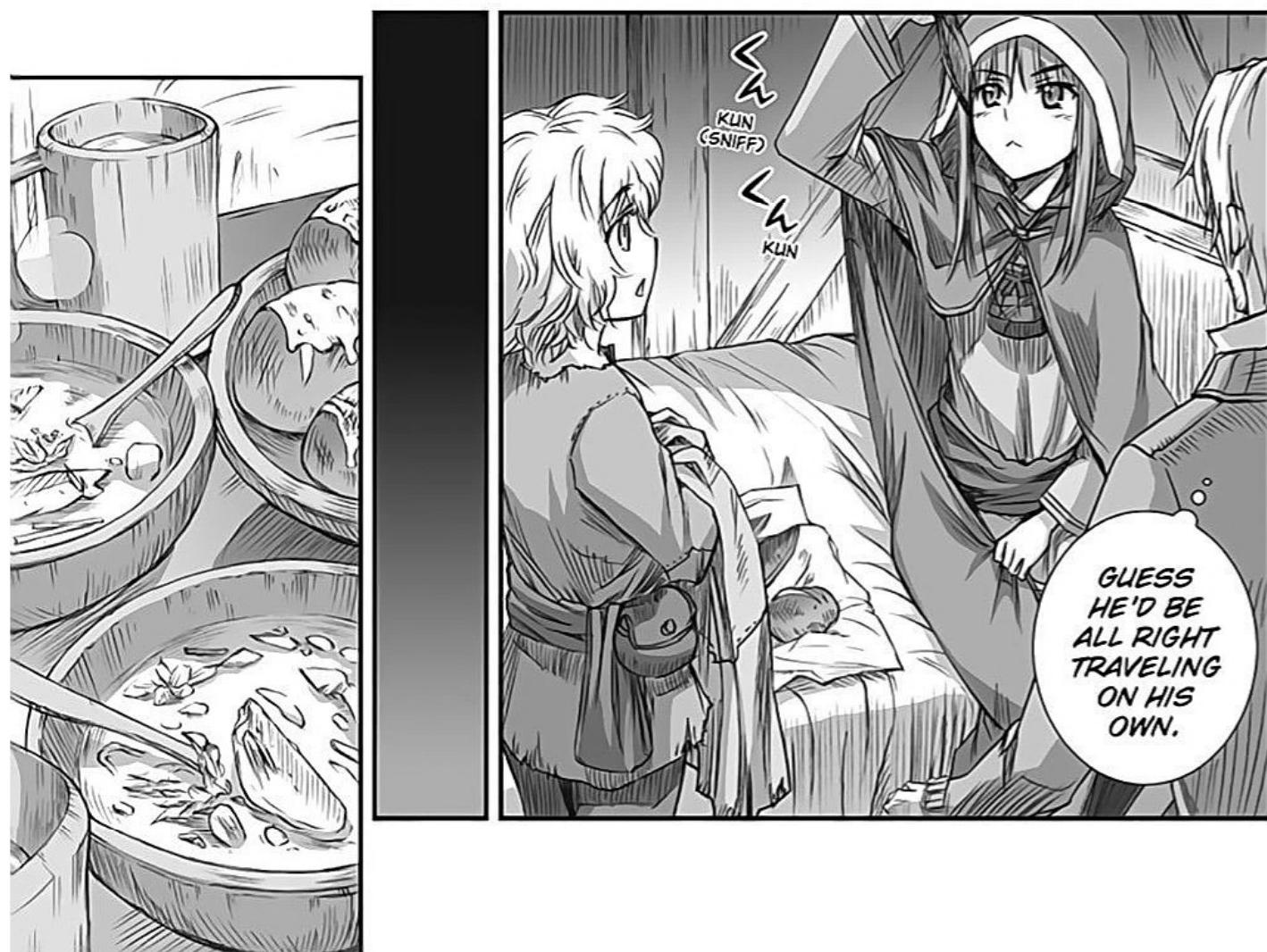
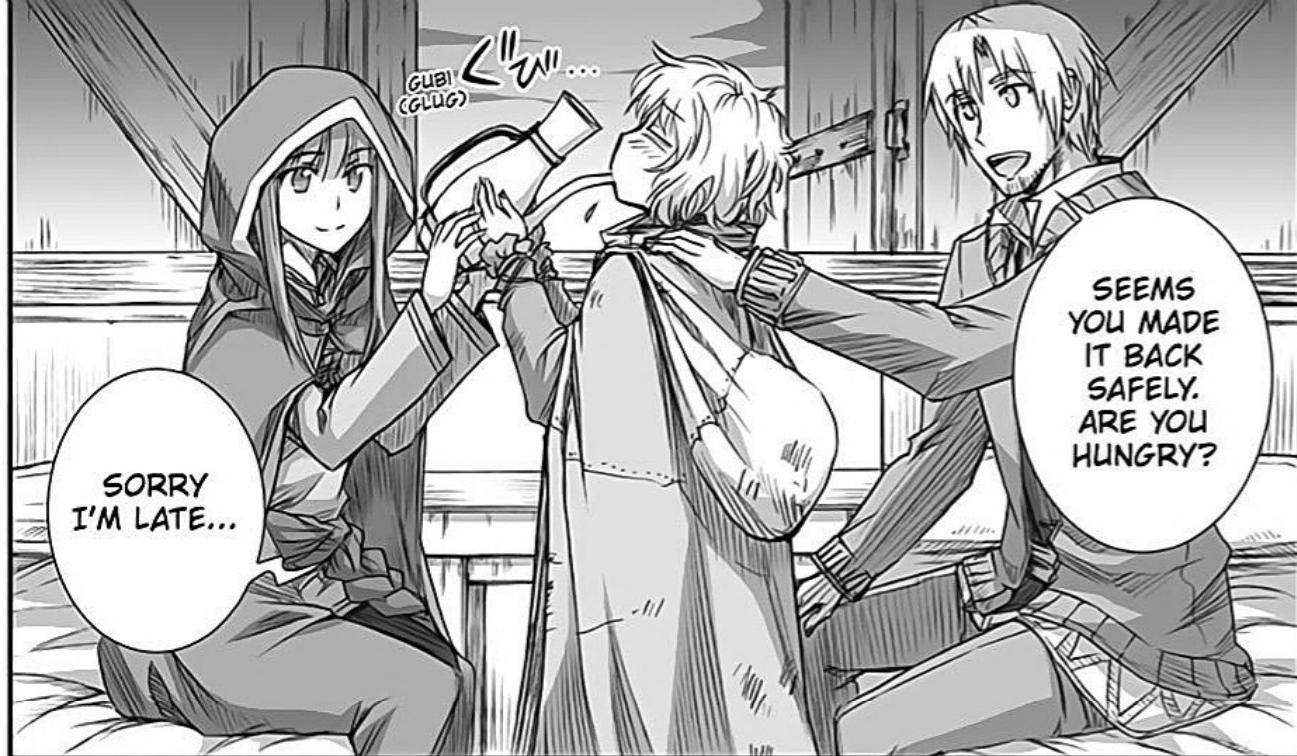
YOU
SEE?

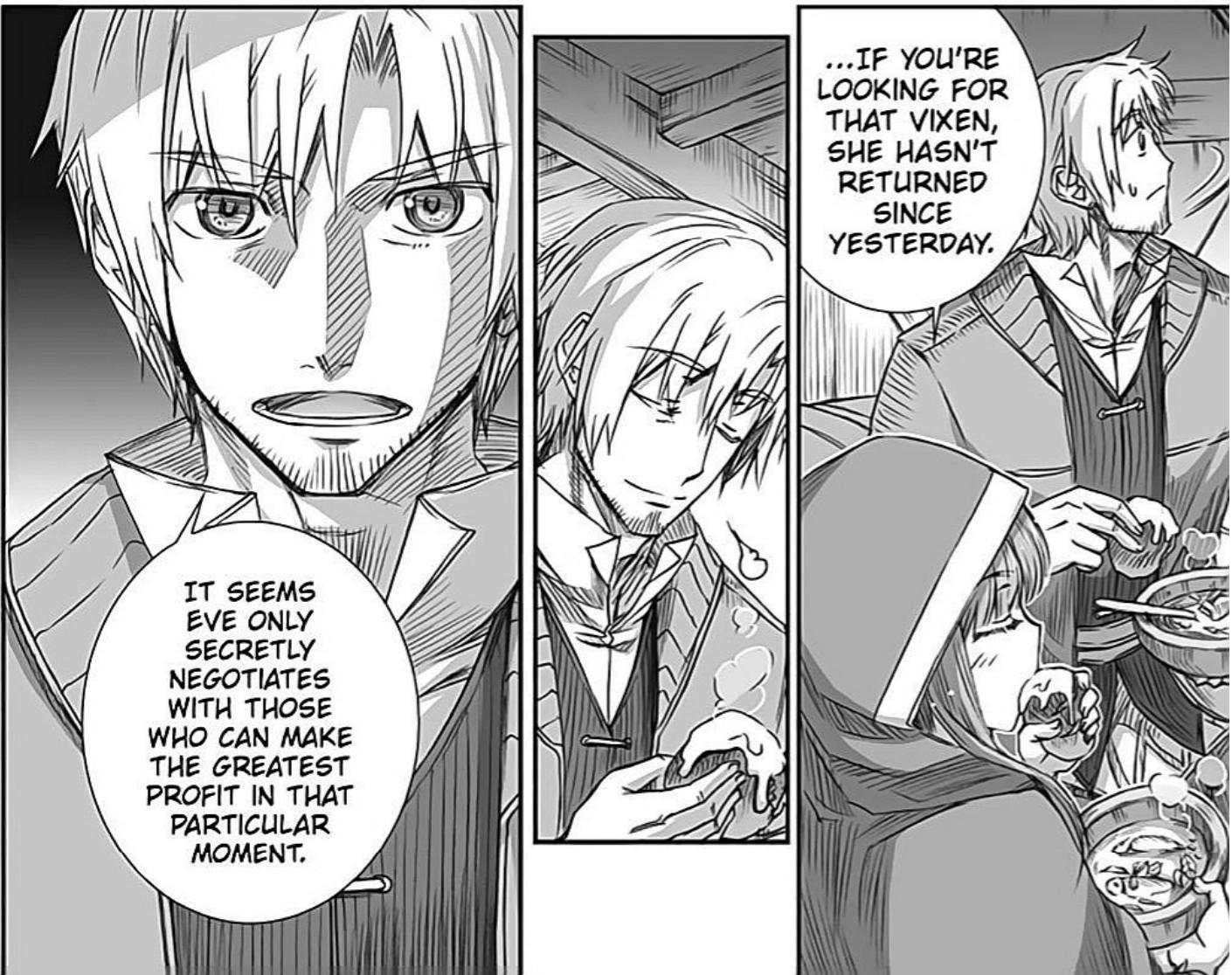
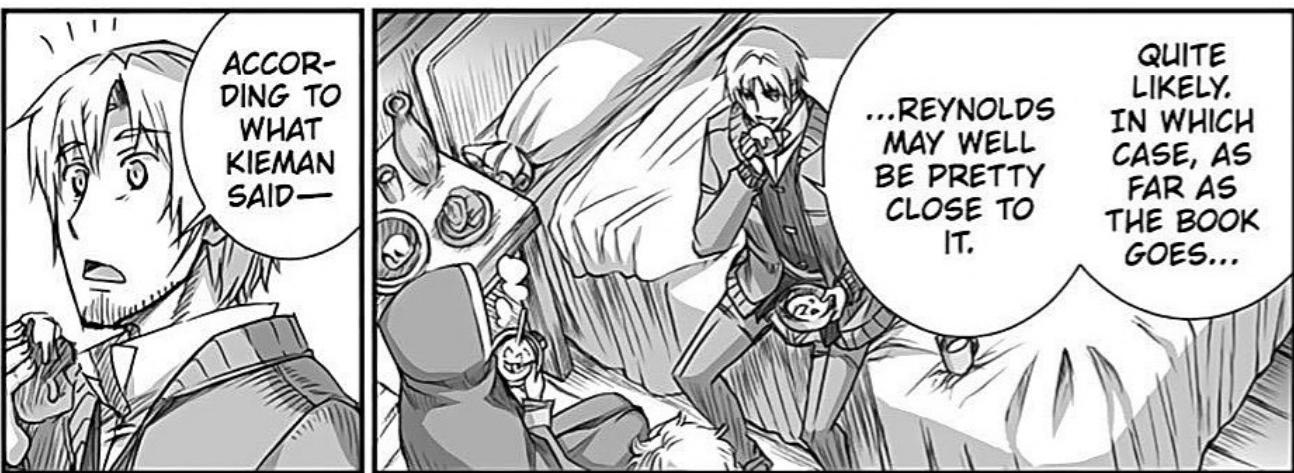
AYE.





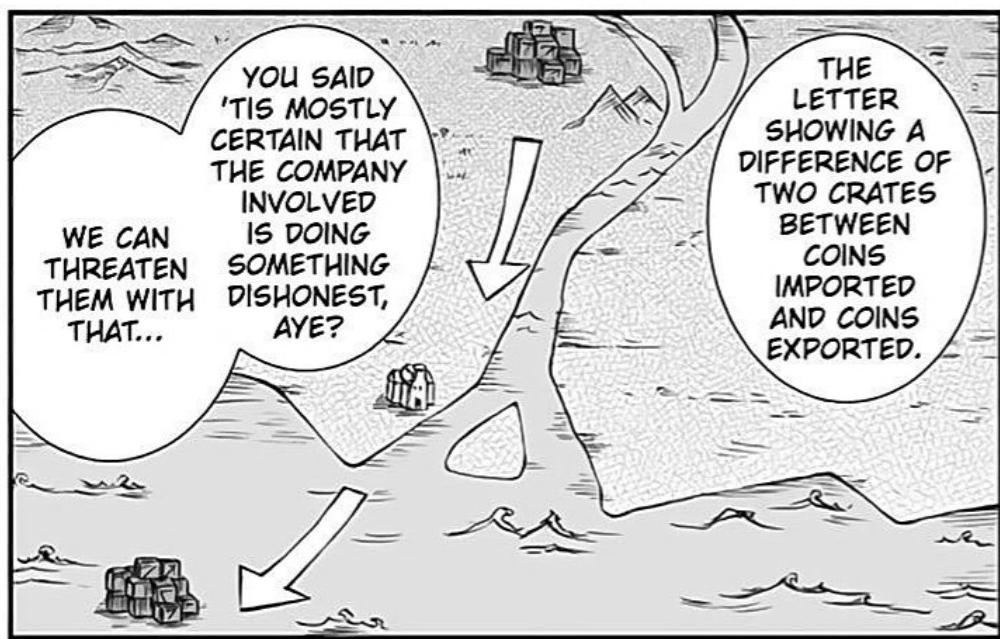














OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

A LITTLE
WHILE AGO
I SOLVED
THE RIDDLE
OF THE
COIN
CRATES!

SFX: KUSHA (CRUFFLE)



MM...

I'LL
EXPLAIN
ONCE THE
TABLE'S
CLEARED!



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!

WELL
DONE
INDEED!!

REALLY!?
WELL
DONE,
COL!



...AND
GET THE
LOCATION OF
THE BOOK
ONCE HE'S
ASKED HER
TO HELP
HIM.

WE
DO WHAT
REYNOLDS
WANTS
AND PLAY
MATCHMAKER
TWIXT HIM
AND THE
VIXEN...

GISHI
(CREAK)



OH,
AYE?

...WAIT.
THERE'S
STILL A
CLEAR
FLAW THERE.





WE
NEED BUT
SEDUCE
HER.

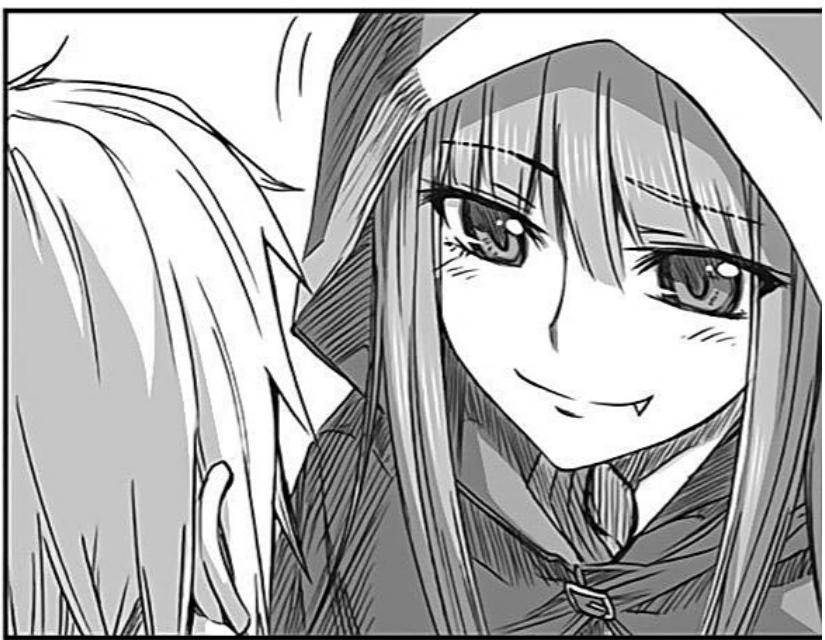


...MAKE
NO MISTAKE
THAT SHE'LL
INSTANTLY BE
ON GUARD
AGAINST
HAVING IT
STOLEN
AWAY.

IF WE ASK
HER WHERE
THE BOOK
IS...



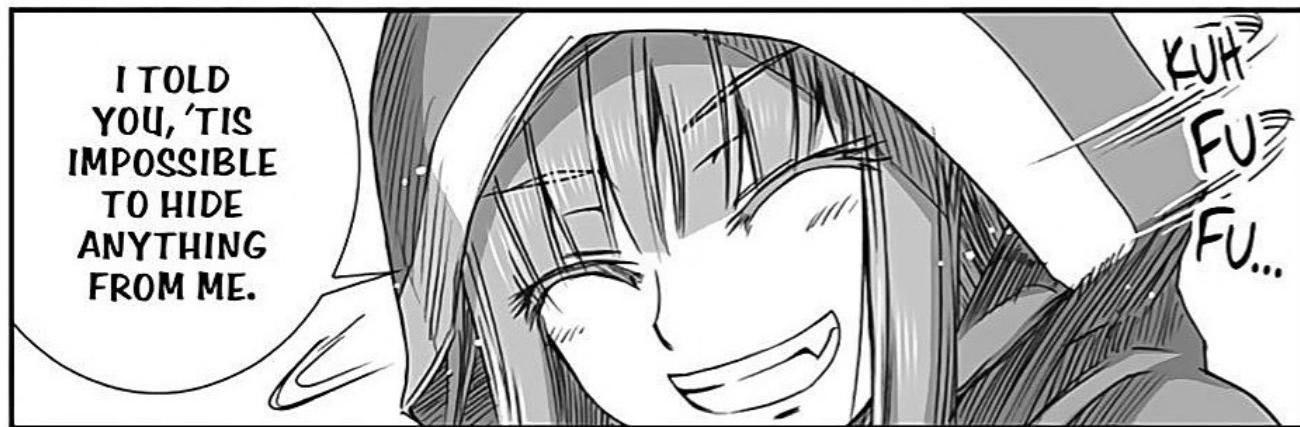
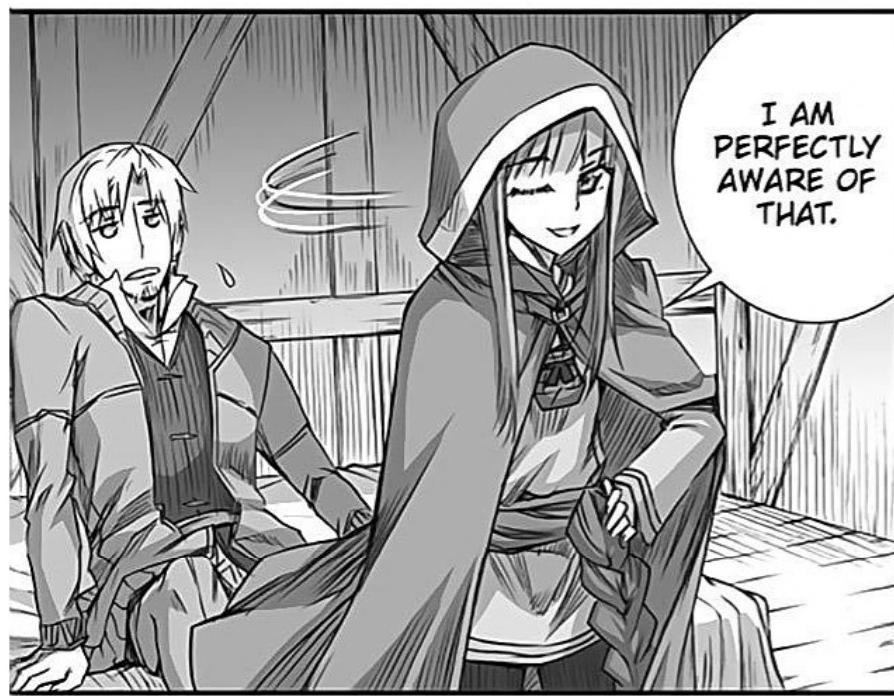
YES.
WHAT
PROFIT
IS THERE
FOR EVE
IN DOING
THAT?



SFX: BIKU (JOLT)







ALL
DONE!

...YOU
CAN PACK
MORE COINS
INTO IT.

DEPENDING
ON HOW YOU
LINE THEM UP
IN THE BOX...

'TIS SO
SIMPLE...

HOH!!

AMAZING
...

IF THEY WERE TOLD TO PACK THE CRATES TIGHTLY, NO ONE WOULD THINK TO CHECK EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE PACKED DURING EXPORT.

A LARGER GAP
...IT'S ABOUT ONE-THIRTIETH LESS... IN OTHER WORDS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIXTY CRATES AND FIFTY-EIGHT.



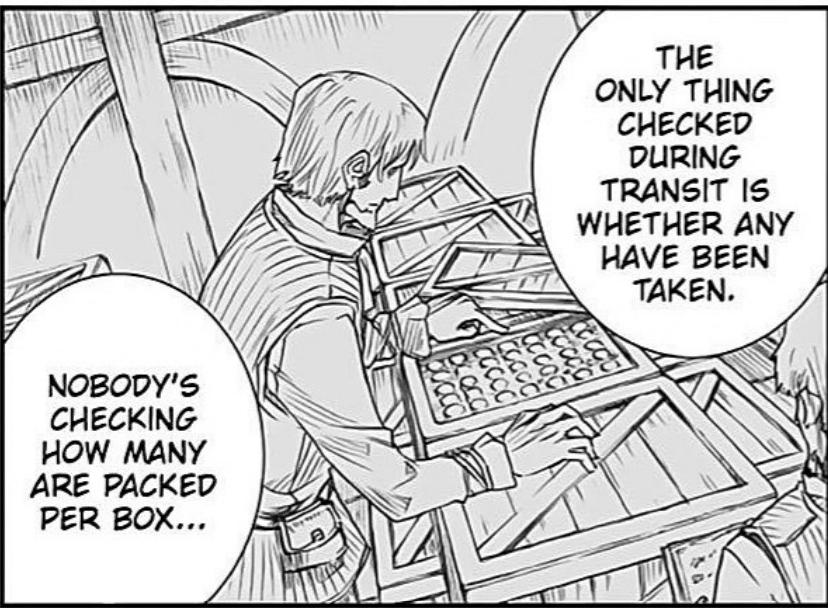
IF YOU MEASURE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE AREA BETWEEN COINS...

THE SAME NINE COINS ARRANGED TO FIT IN A SMALLER AREA
THE GAP IS SMALLER.

TAXATION GOES BY THE NUMBER OF CRATES, AS DO TRANSPORT FEES.



NOBODY'S CHECKING HOW MANY ARE PACKED PER BOX...



THE ONLY THING CHECKED DURING TRANSIT IS WHETHER ANY HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

HAS NO ONE ELSE NOTICED THIS?

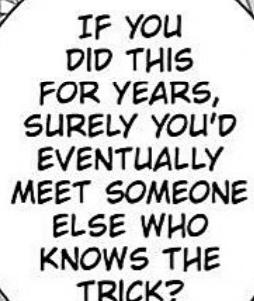
HMM?

I WONDER, THOUGH...

COMMON SENSE IS A TRICKY OPPONENT
...

1=4;3

SFX: NYUU (PINCH)



IF YOU DID THIS FOR YEARS, SURELY YOU'D EVENTUALLY MEET SOMEONE ELSE WHO KNOWS THE TRICK?



I'LL AGREE THAT COL IS A BRIGHT LAD, BUT THERE ARE MANY BRIGHT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.



HMM?



NO, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY PARTICULAR NECESSARY TO NOTICE THIS.



MUUU CIRK

YES. ONLY AFTER WE KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE EXPORT AND IMPORT CAN WE BEGIN TO SUSPECT FOUL PLAY.



EVEN SOMEONE WHO LIVES CAUTIOUSLY CAN'T INSPECT EVERYTHING.

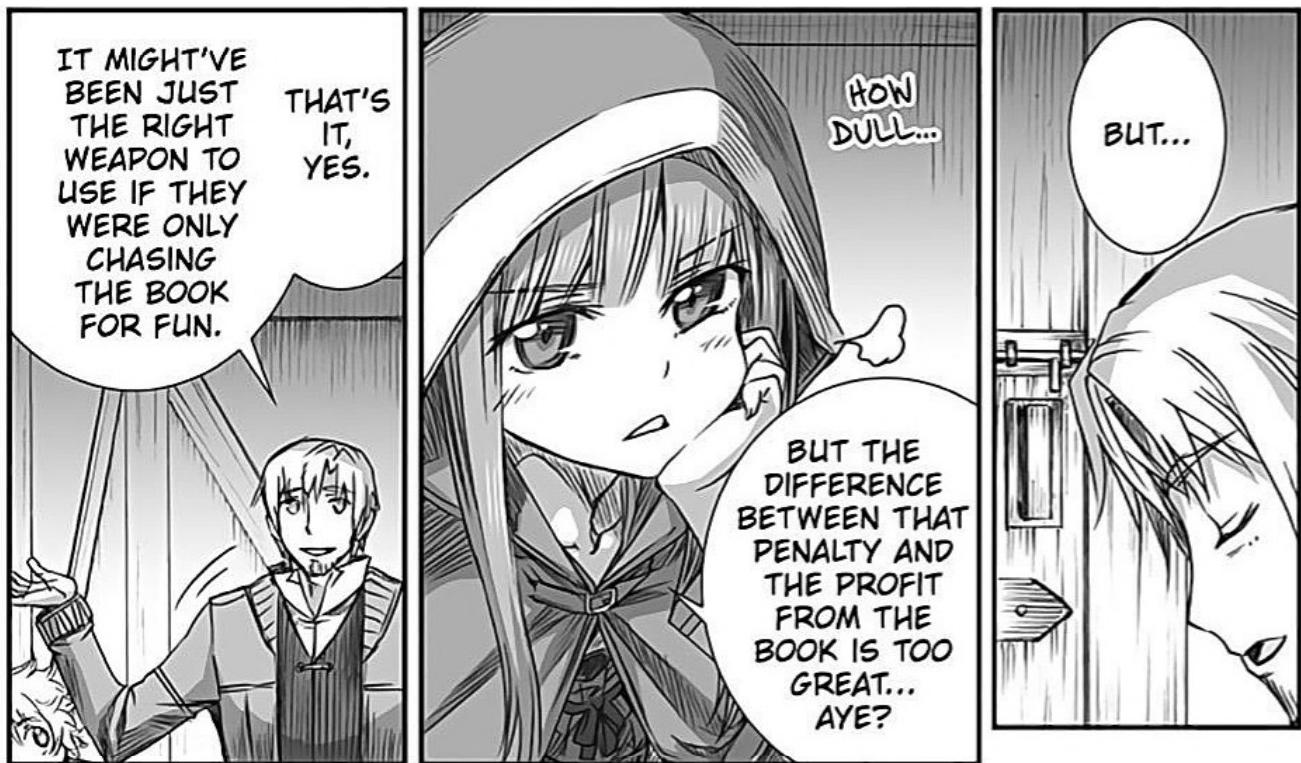


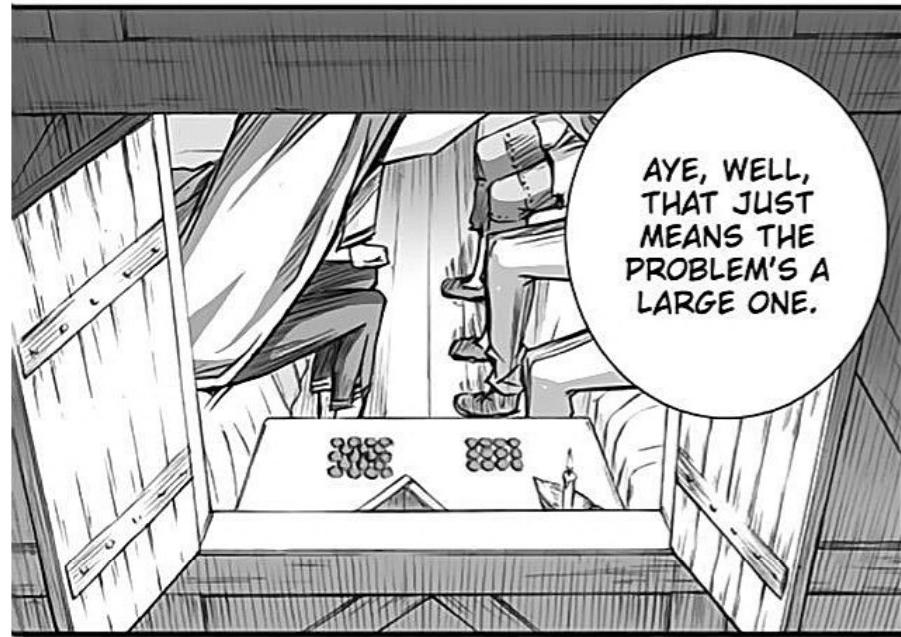
GABA CLUNGE

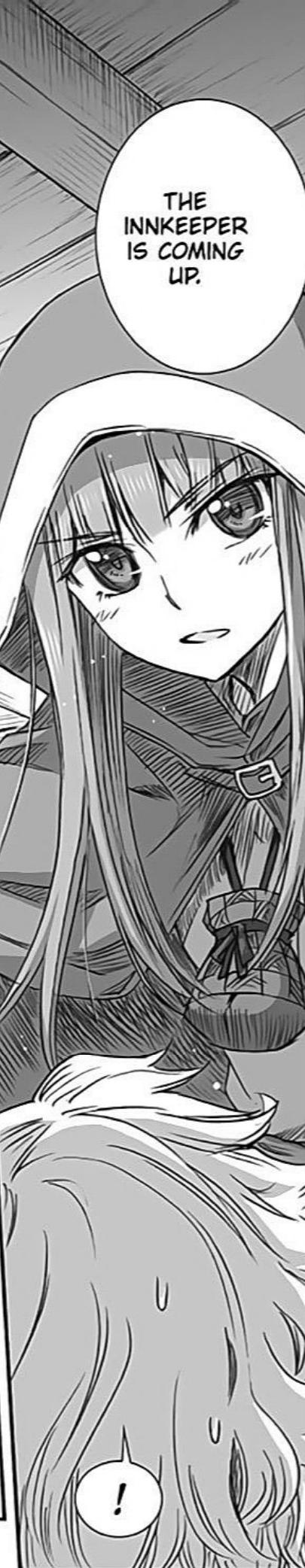


THE MANIFEST, RIGHT?



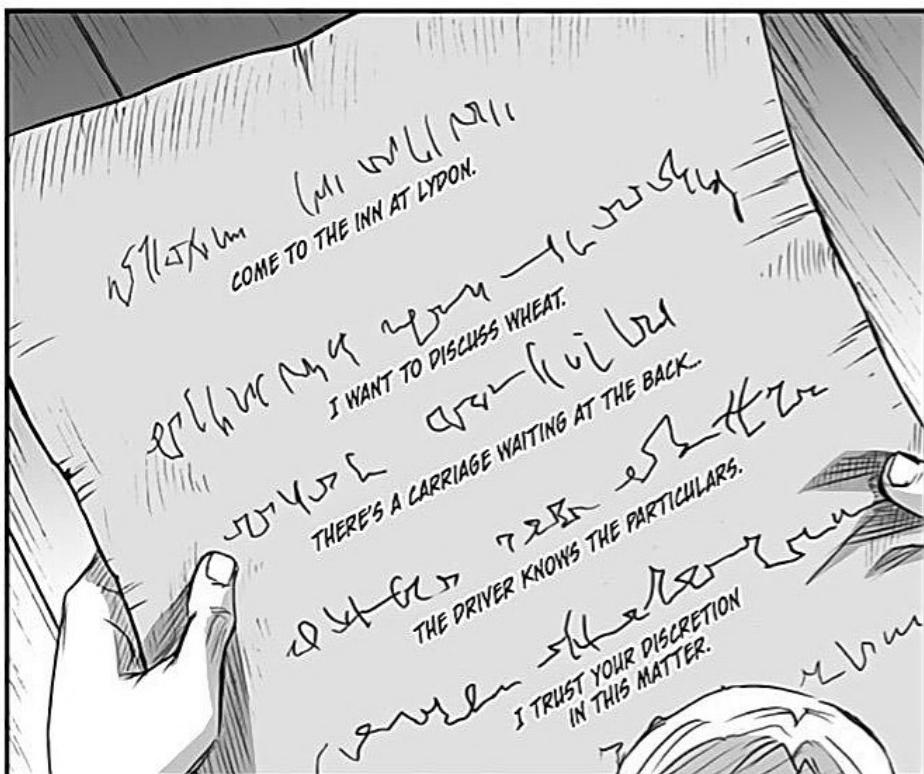






THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS PLACE IS
LIKE EVE'S BASE
OF OPERATIONS...

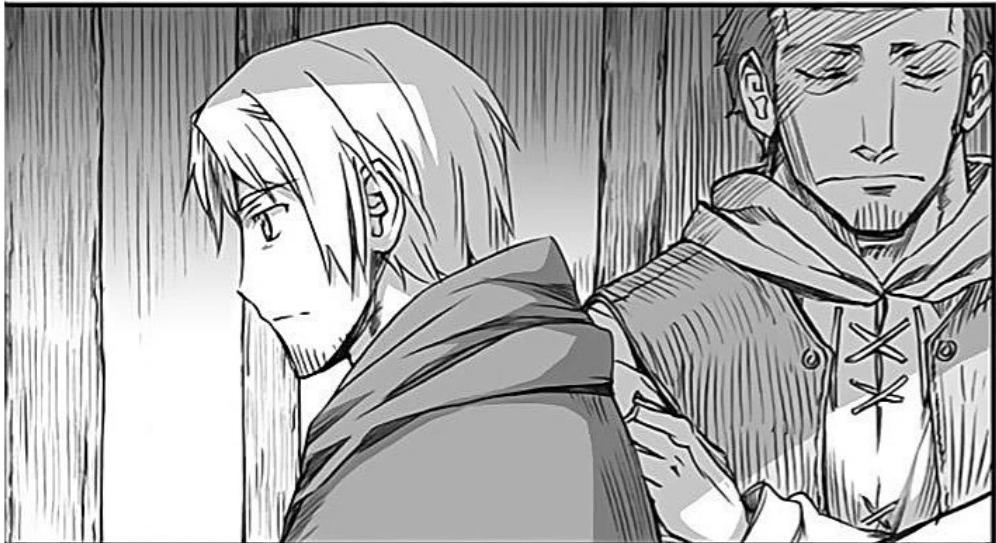


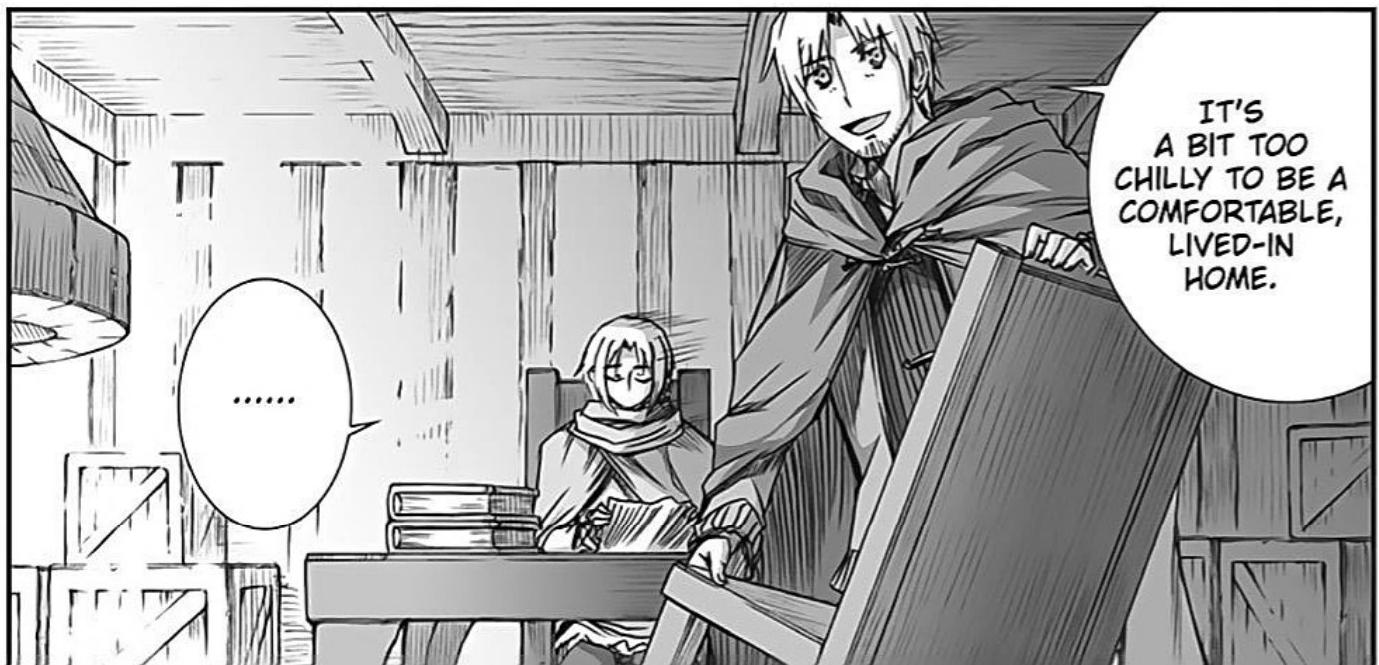


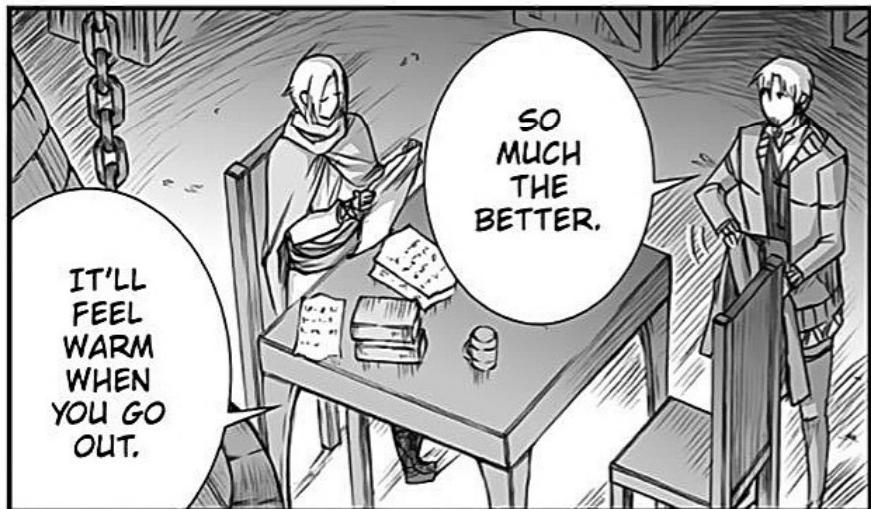
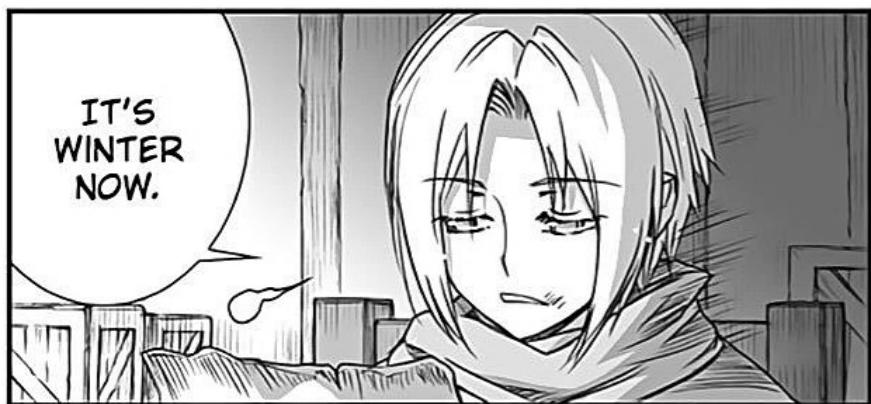
SPICE & WOLF

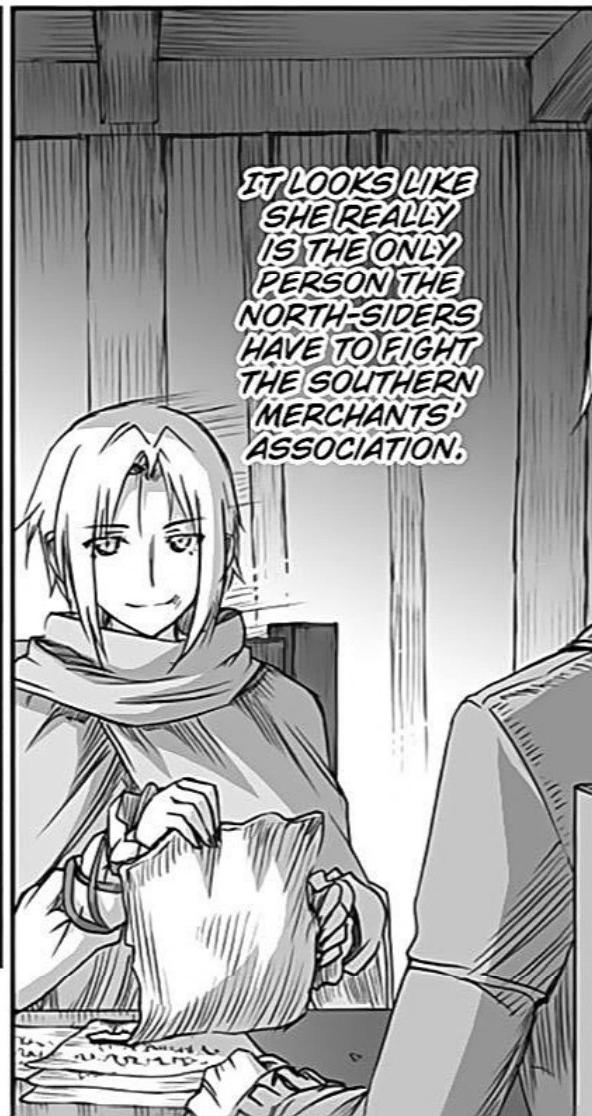












THE
REASON
I CALLED
YOU IS, OF
COURSE—

PACHI
(CRACKLE)

110 X

WELL, YOU
SAW THE
COMMOTION
IN TOWN,
DIDN'T
YOU?

IF THINGS
GO BADLY,
I'LL NEED
MY BREAD
TORN INTO
RATHER
SMALL
PIECES
TONIGHT.

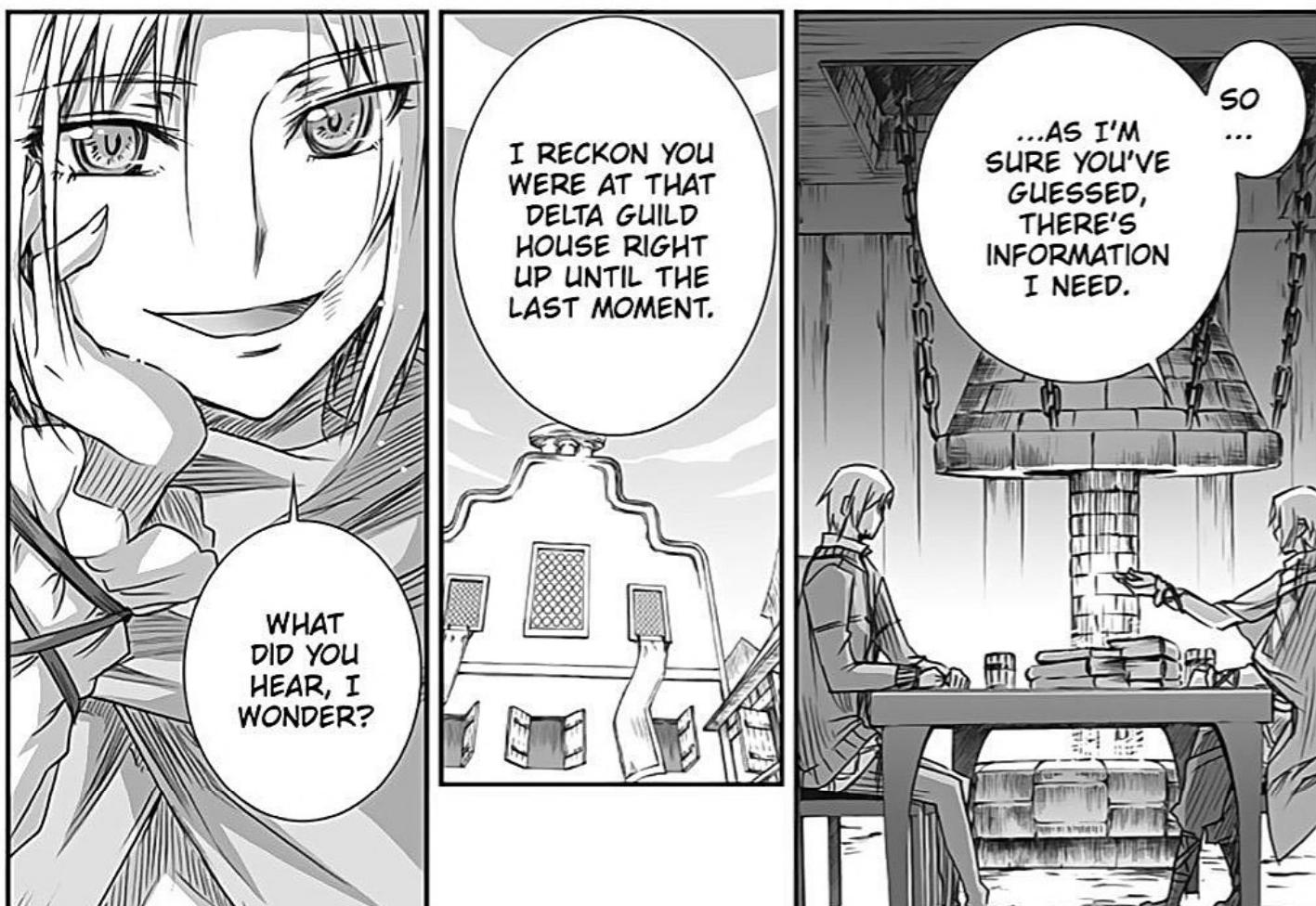
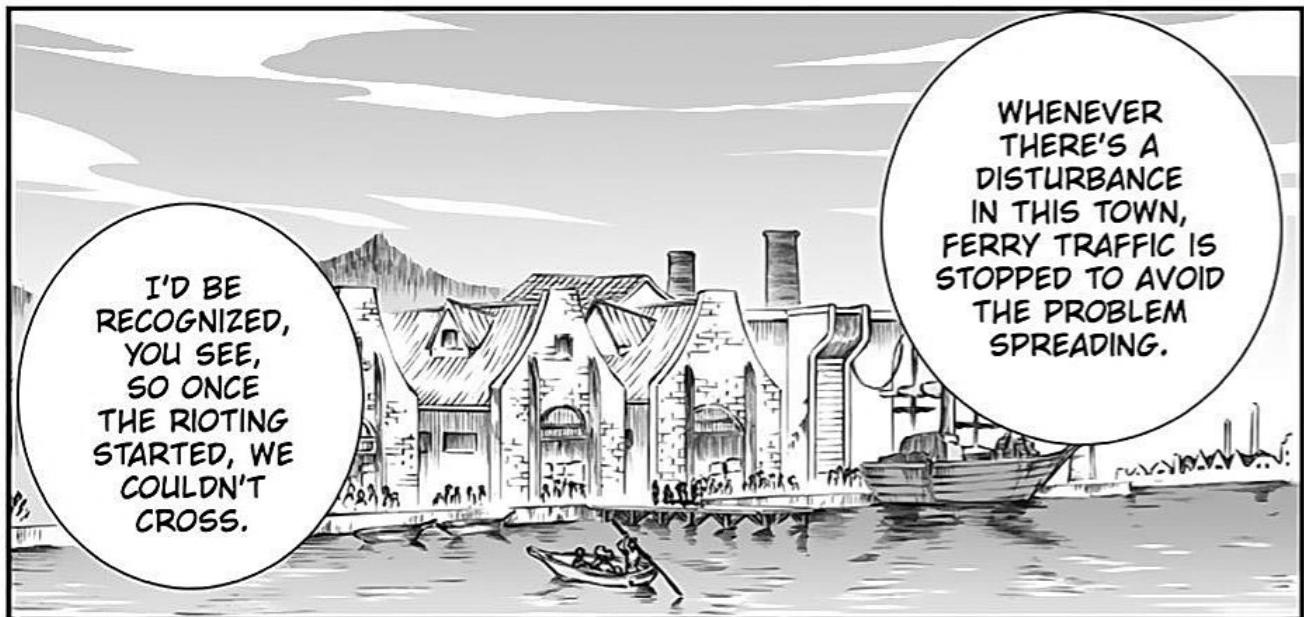
STILL,
I'M GLAD
YOU LET
YOUR-
SELF BE
CAUGHT.

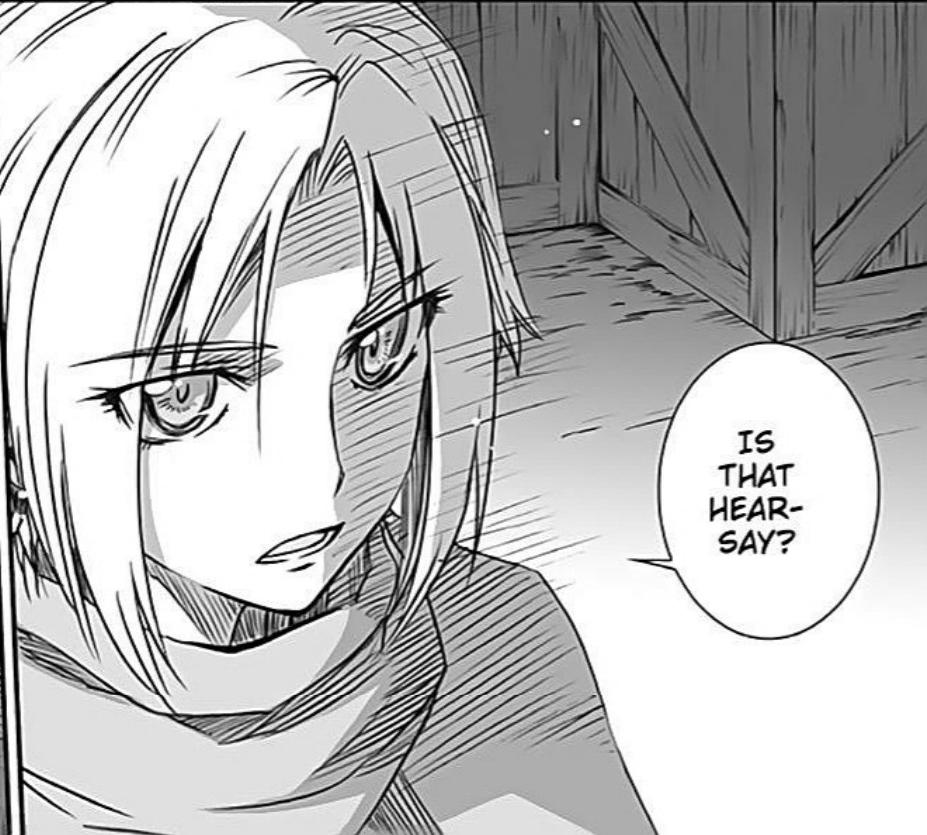
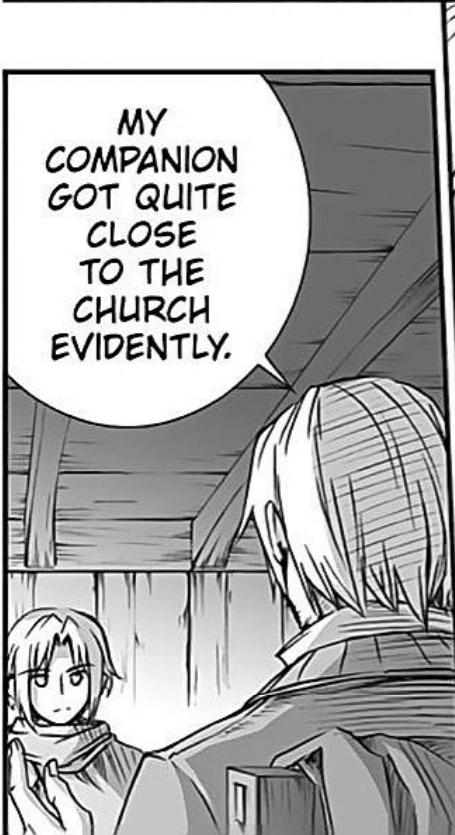
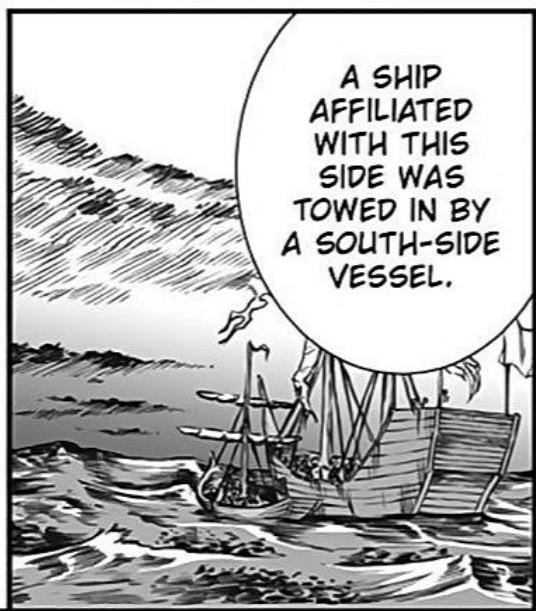
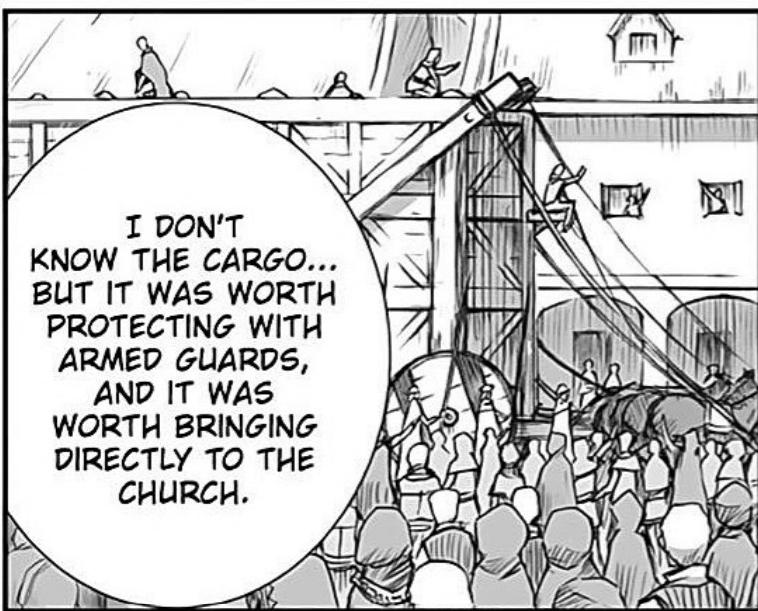
INDEED.
IT'S AS
THOUGH GOD
HIMSELF
TIMED IT.

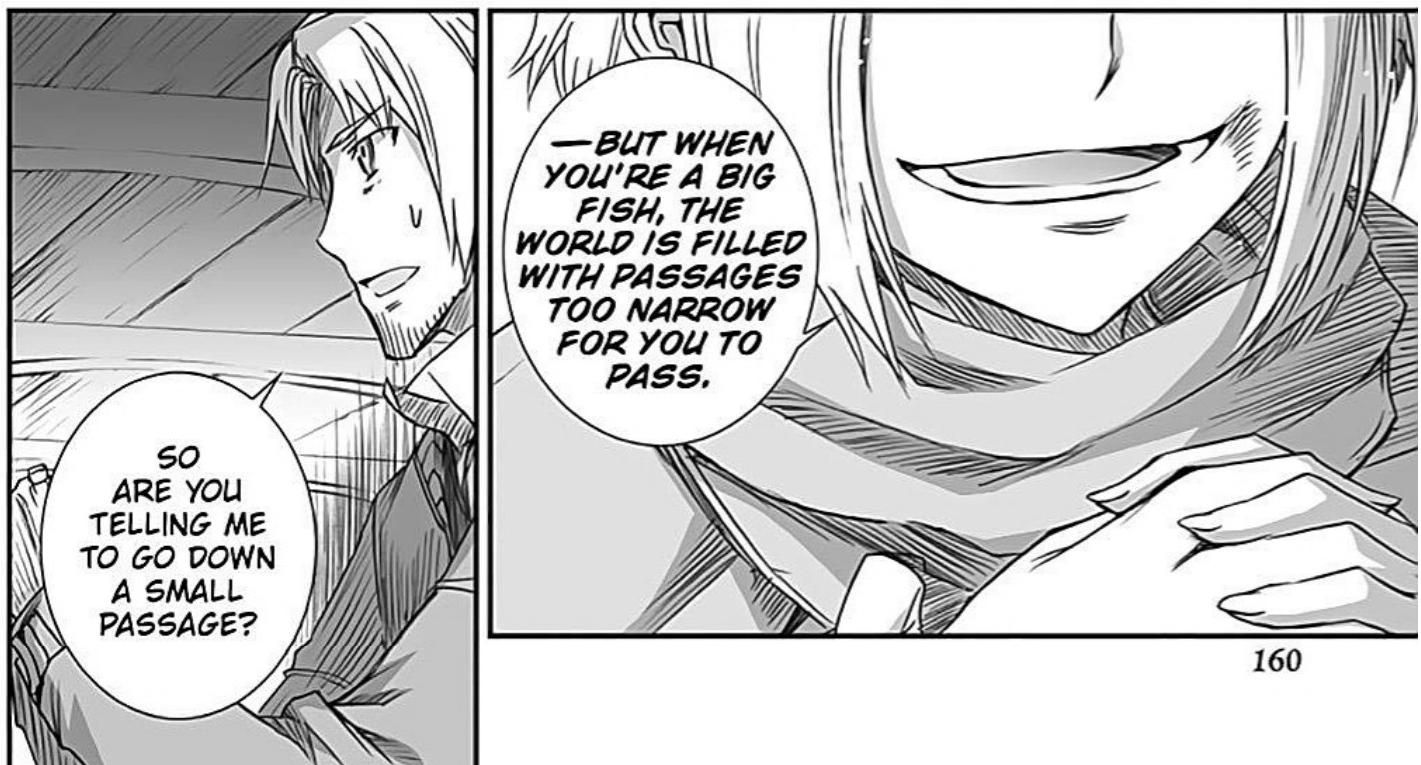
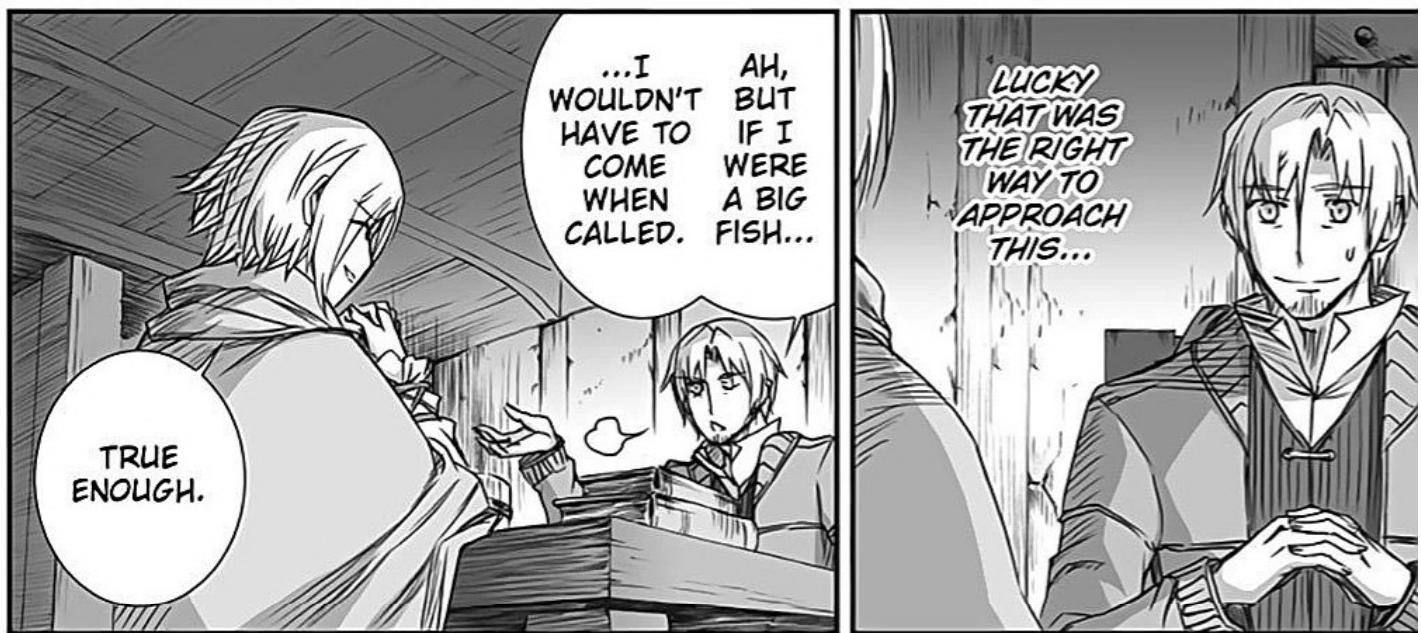
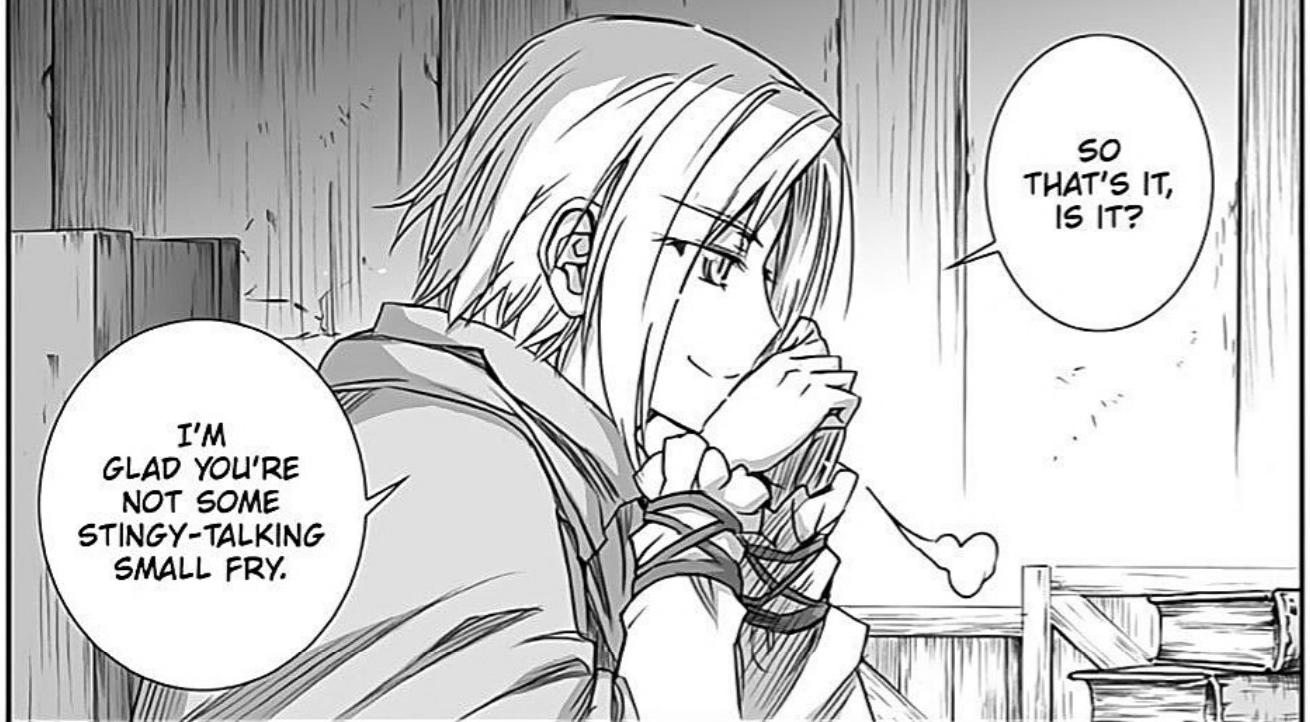
YES...
SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
FISHERMAN'S
BOATS FROM
THIS SIDE OF
TOWN DOCKING
IN THE SOUTH,
WAS IT?

I JUST
HAPPENED
TO RETURN
HERE
WHEN THE
NEWS
REACHED
ME.

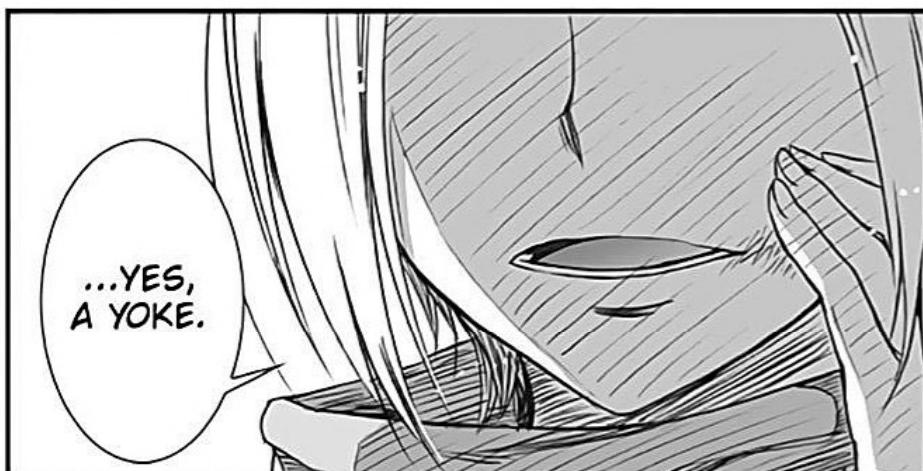
NORMALLY,
I'M ON
THE DELTA.





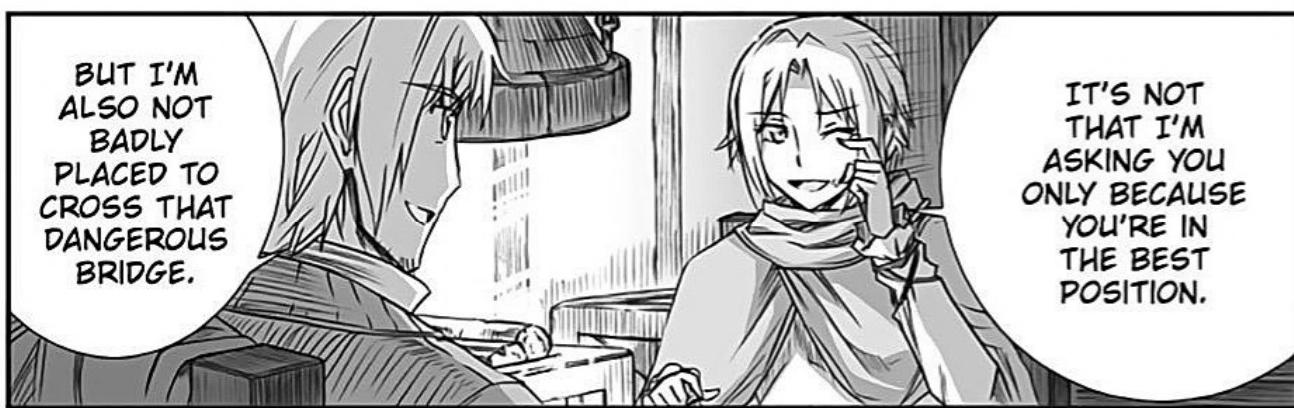


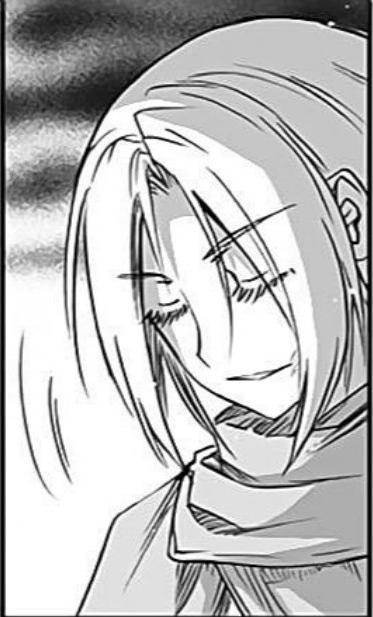
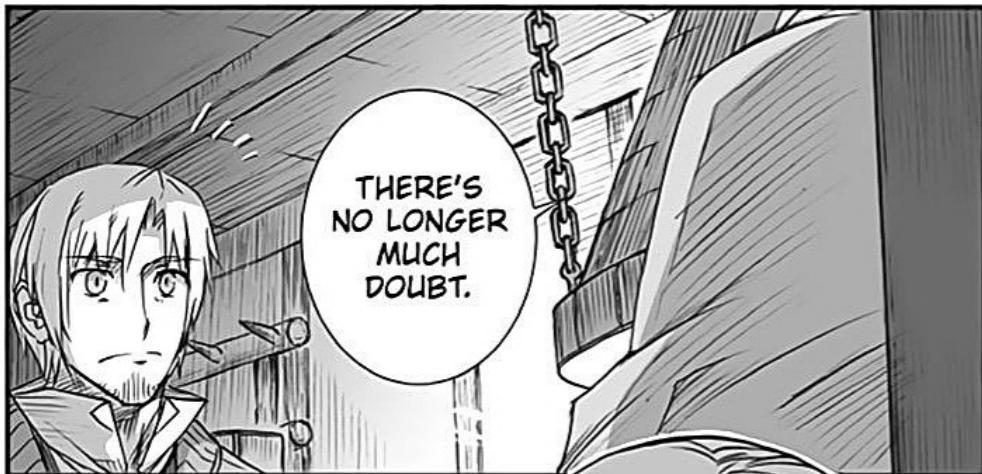




*A TOOL USED TO HOLD ANIMALS LIKE HORSES OR OXEN IN PLACE WHEN PULLING CARTS. IT RESTRICTS THEIR MOVEMENT.







A NARWHAL?
AS IN THE
IMMORTAL
SORT?

YES. A
HORNED SEA
MONSTER.

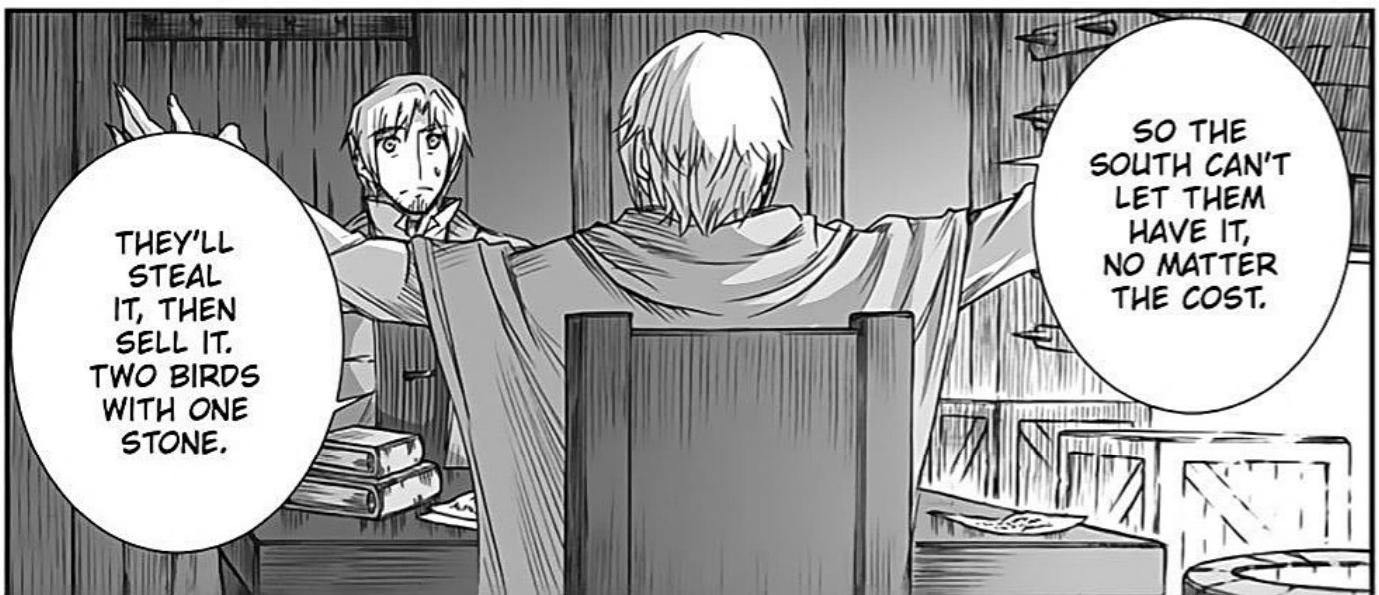
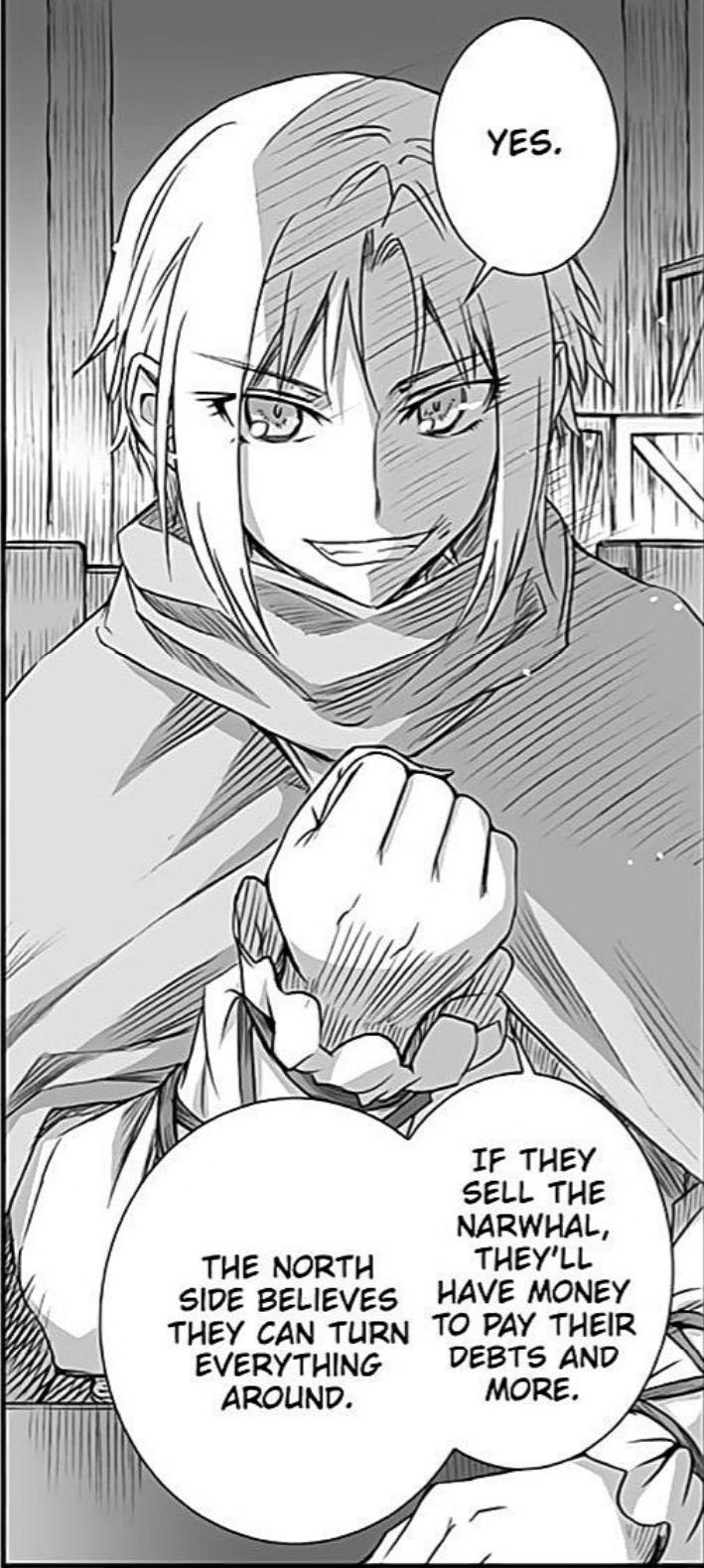
...EVEN
THOUGH
THEY DID
THIS TO
ME.
THE
PEOPLE
WHO
LOCKED
ME UP
HERE ARE
TERRIFIED
I'LL GET
ANGRY...

I'D HEARD
THAT WITHOUT
FREEZING WATER
THEY DIE, SO
HOW WOULD ONE
MAKE IT THIS
FAR SOUTH?

EATING ITS
FLESH BRINGS
LONGEVITY, AND
ITS POWDERED
HORN CURES
ALL DISEASES.

THOUGH
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
HEARD OF IT
HAPPENING
WITH A
NARWHAL.

ACCORDING
TO THE SAILORS,
DEPENDING ON
THE SEVERITY OF
THE WEATHER,
FISH AND OTHER
CREATURES
CAN BE DRIVEN
SOUTH.



SO
WILL YOU
DO IT?

...NO,
WAIT.

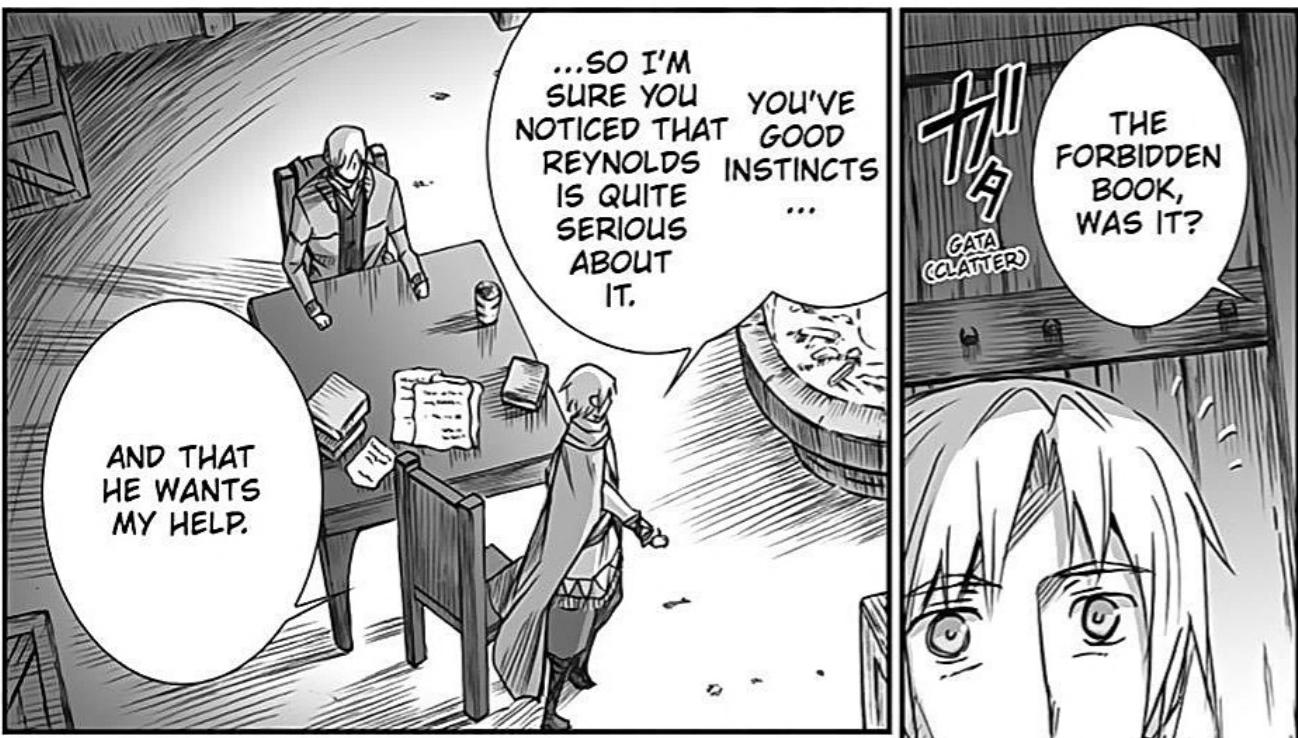
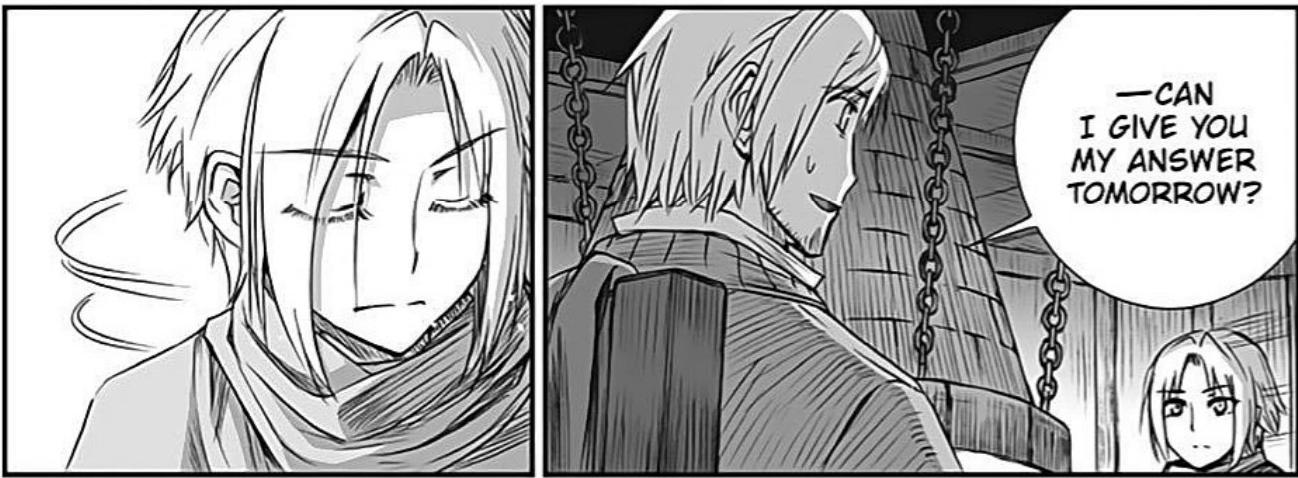
THAT'S WHY
THEY TOOK IT TO
THE CHURCH. TO
AVOID HAVING IT
TAKEN BY FORCE
OF ARMS.



WHAT
WILL IT
TAKE TO
CONVINCE
YOU TO
DO IT?

...DON'T
YOU THINK
SOMETHING
INcredible
awaits
you on
the other
side?
—IF YOU
CAN SLIP
THROUGH
THIS
PASSAGE...

SHE'S
RIGHT.



NOT AT ALL. I'M PLEASED MY GUESS WAS RIGHT.

ARE YOU ANGRY?

YOU KNEW, AND YOU STILL WROTE ME THAT LETTER ...

THERE AREN'T MANY IN THE NORTH WHO CAN AFFORD WOOD FOR THEIR FIREPLACES. MOST BURN PEAT.

THAT LAD WILL BE POPULAR NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES.

AND YET I HEAR THERE'S MORE CHARITY ON THIS SIDE.

BOU (WHOOSH)



CAN'T BLAME
ME FOR FEELING
THREATENED,
EH?

AND
HE'S BEEN
CHASING ME
OBSESSIVELY.
HE'S NOT
ONE TO BE
TRIFLED
WITH.

ANYWAY, HE'S
FORMIDABLE,
NO QUESTION.

QUITE...

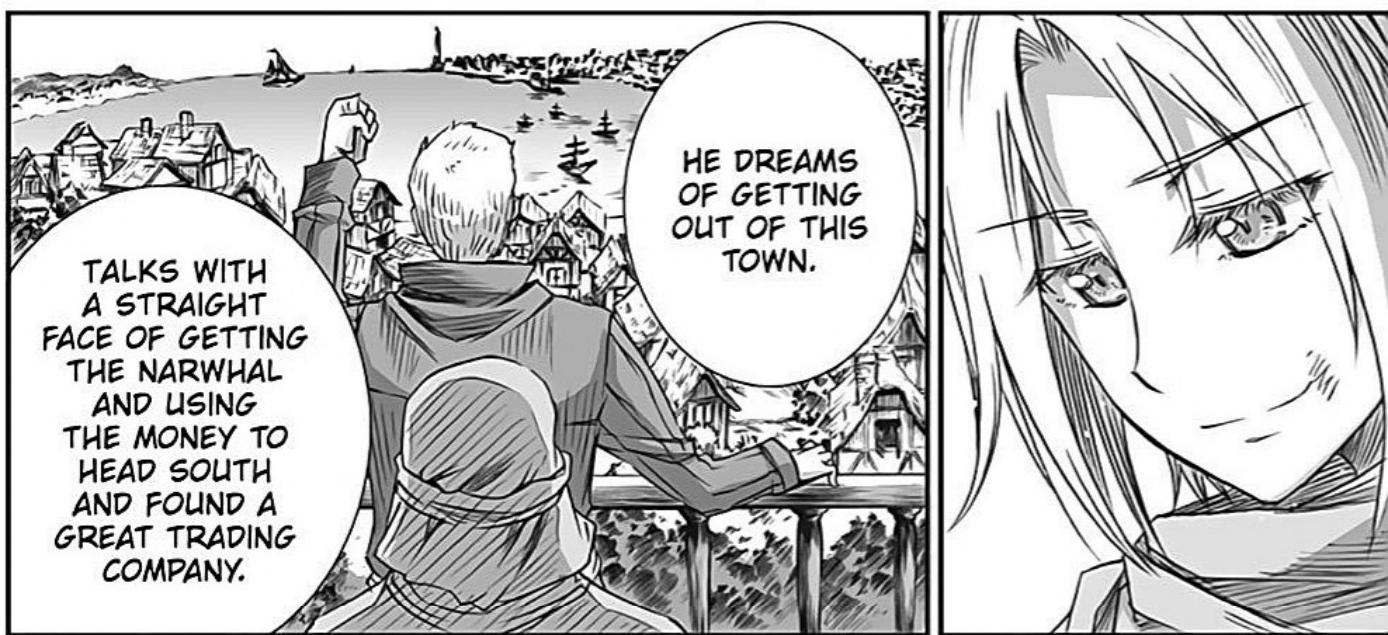
IF IT
COMES DOWN
TO THAT,
WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY TO
DROPPING
THE GUILD?

...HEY.

HE'S BURNED
ME SEVERAL
TIMES OVER.

WHERE
WOULD A
MERCHANT
WHO'D LEFT
HIS GUILD
GO?







I MUST
TURN ON HIM,
MUSTN'T I?



Special Thanks !!

MR. ITTOUHEI OKAMOTO, MR. TENTSU
TOI, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. A.

To be continued in Volume 10...

I turn around, and suddenly we're at Volume 9!
Koume-san's Eve is so clever and surprisingly
adorable that she makes my heart beat faster! I
can't take my eyes off the story. Hang in there!

支倉凍砂
ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume
9 going on sale! Now that
Eve's finally shown up,
I'm more sucked into the
story than ever before.
I can't wait to see how
the manga version of
the story takes shape.



SPICE & WOLF 9

ISUNA HASEKURA
KEITO KOUUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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